

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

MARCH 1941



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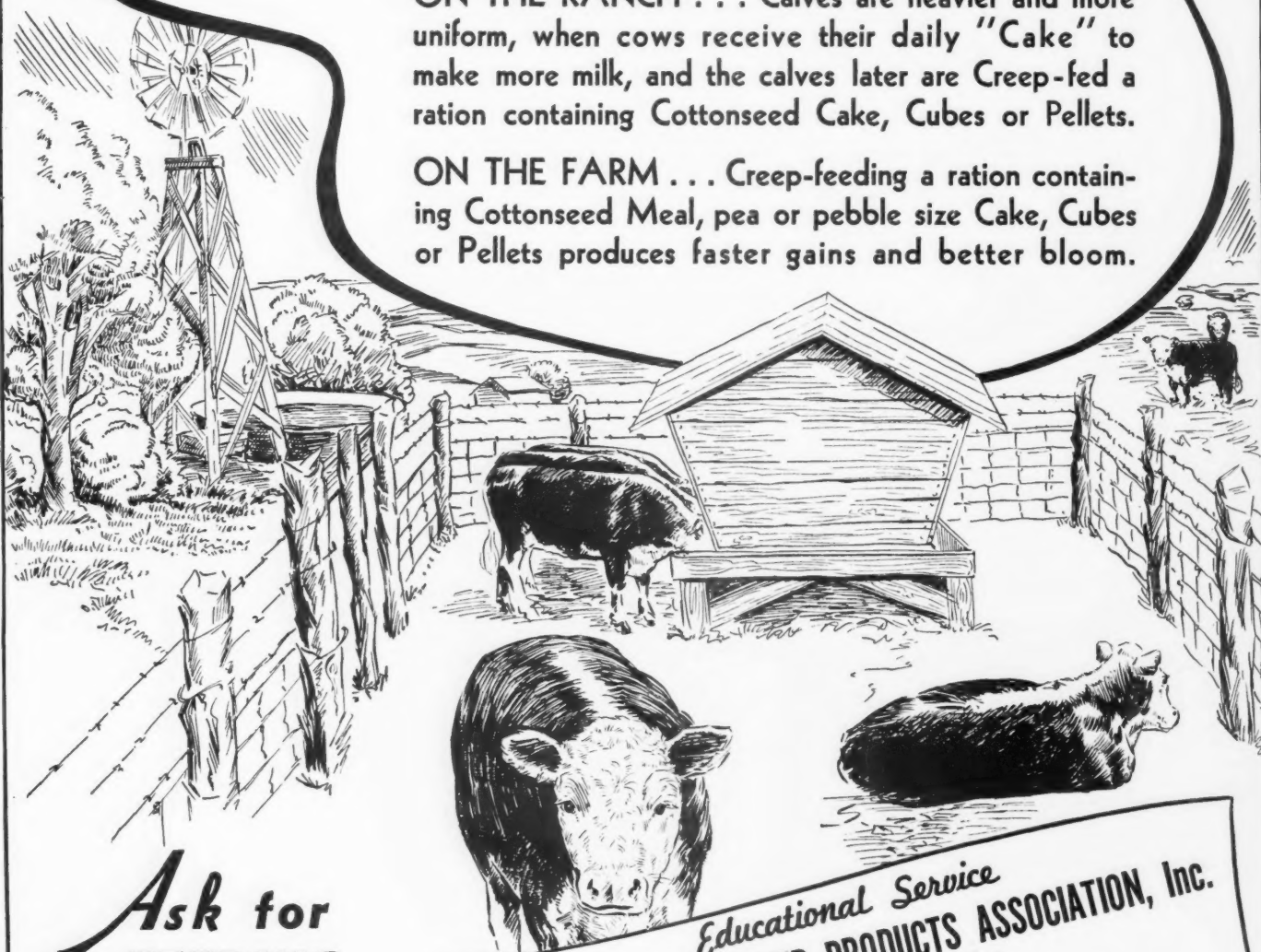
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AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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MEAT PRICES OF THE PAST AND FUTURE

By ALBERT W. GRAY

"EXPERIENCE IS THE TEACHER of fools," wrote a Roman historian nearly 2,000 years ago. The world was given a bitter lesson for its learning in the twenty years following the outbreak of the 1914 World War. A century before it had been taught the same lesson that was forgotten long before the 1914 to 1934 experience. "What a lesson unlearned," wrote Ralph Enfield of the 1920 commodity collapse.

The vast expenditures of the present defense programs and the daily holocaust in Europe of the world's assets, leads to the fervent hope that the world has now, at this long and bitter last, learned from its teacher the experience of the 1914 World War "boom and of the skyrocketing prices of the Napoleonic War period of 1793 to 1815."

The ratio of production costs to market prices remaining constant, there is prosperity and peace. With a lag in production costs and an advance in market prices, the resulting "boom" days are a false prosperity, bringing in their wake disaster and want.

The prices of livestock and other farm commodities did not begin their spectacular rise during the last World War until 1916—approximately eighteen months after the outbreak of hostilities in Europe. From the early months of 1916 until April, 1917, prices rose 60 per cent. By May, 1920, the price level had reached an all-time high of 244 per cent of the average for 1909 to 1914. Within two years this 244 per cent increase had dwindled to a 150 per cent of the 1909 to 1914 level. That price level held for approximately eight years when the second collapse occurred, with a precipitate drop to a level that was 15 per cent below the 1909 to 1914 average. Then came a recovery, with a subsequent further decline in 1937 and 1938.

In October, 1915, commodity prices in the United States were 106 per cent of the level of one to five years before. In England the increase had been 63 per cent. By April, 1916, the increase in the United States had reached 126 per cent, while in England commodities were selling at 174 per cent of the 1910 to 1914 level. During the next twelve months the

United States commodity price level rose to 192 per cent of the pre-war level; in England, 219 per cent. By April, 1918, English prices were at a 247 per cent level and in the United States 214 per cent of the 1910 to 1914 level. These are items taken from the second lesson in "boom" profits that has been given the economic world.

IN 1793 there was inaugurated another European War. In those days England was separated from the conflict by the English Channel, much as the United States today is fended from the present conflict by the Atlantic Ocean. Substantially the same economic factors operated on English trade at that time that are present in the agricultural situation of this country at the present time. From 1780 to 1790 meat prices advanced about 8 per cent, but by 1800 the meat price level was 180 per cent of the level of twenty years before and during the next fifteen years skyrocketed to 225 per cent of the 1780 level. Then came the drop that, in retrospect, might well have foretold the cataclysm of 1920. English meat prices, at 225 per cent of the 1780 level, headed downward in a nose dive to 130 per cent of the previous level. In 1920 prices in this country were 202 per cent of the 1911 to 1913 level. In August of 1920 they followed the timeworn course of the collapse of a century before, falling to 131 per cent of the previous level and to 80 per cent by the fall of 1921.

The parallel between this country today and England during the French wars, ending in 1815 with Waterloo, is made even closer by the internal economic condition of the two countries during these periods. Fifty-three per cent of the population of the United States in 1870 was engaged in agricultural pursuits. By 1910 this proportion had decreased to 31 per cent and during the succeeding ten years declined a further 10 per cent. It is apparent that from 1870 to the outbreak of the 1914 World War this country was being transformed from an agricultural to an industrial nation.

At the time Napoleon was ravaging Europe, much as the head of the German

Reich is doing today, England was passing through the same transition as did the United States during the past fifty years. At that time the English were not importing basic agricultural products and to a large extent were self-supporting.

BEARING in mind the fluctuations of the meat and commodity prices in this country during the last European war, compare the price levels of these same commodities in England during the war period from 1793 to the overthrow of Napoleon at Waterloo in 1815. In 1810 beef and mutton were selling in England at 8½ pence—approximately 17 cents. By 1814 the price had advanced to 19 cents; from that point came a decline that in 1822 was 5 pence, or 10 cents a pound—a drop of 47 per cent in eight years. Wheat sold at 103 shillings and 3 pence a "quarter"—approximately \$100 a ton—in 1910; the following year it dropped to \$92.50 and then rose to \$122 in 1812—comparable to the peak of 1920. Within the next ten years the price had dropped to \$43 a ton.

In 1790—three years before the outbreak of hostilities on the continent—the cost in England of cultivating 100 acres of land, according to a report of a House of Commons Committee in 1815, was roughly \$2,000. By 1803 the cost had increased to \$2,750 and in the next ten years advanced to \$3,850—an increase of 92.5 per cent over the corresponding cost of twenty-three years before.

During this period the labor necessary for the cultivation of this 100 acres of land increased from \$425 in 1790 to \$800 in 1813; team hire, from \$335 to \$670; and interest charges, from \$110 to \$250. In this country labor costs rose slowly during the first few years of the war but, as in England a century before, continued their advance far beyond the collapse of commodity prices. Not until the commodity price level had declined by almost half did the wages of this country suffer any substantial reduction.

THE inevitable result of a continually widening spread between production costs and rising market prices is an increasingly greater profit for producers. The entire panorama is in the experience of England during those "boom" days at the beginning of the last century. Only a part of the picture, however, in the economic results of the 1914 "boom," with its consequent collapse, has been thus far unrolled. Profits continually in-

crease, becoming greater with each succeeding year as the advance of prices and the lag of production costs produce an ever widening profit margin. Lured into this economic spider web of the ages, farmers and other producers accept these abnormal conditions as the advent of a business millennium. Rising prices are considered as permanent instead of a glittering dew that vanishes before the steadily advancing labor costs and increasing interest rates.

In 1920 the price of labor had steadily narrowed the spread between market prices and production costs. Property values had soared with the mounting profits. These increased values had been capitalized, pledged as security for loans to finance further capital outlay and improvements. The same process occurred in England. In 1920 the interest rates were increased and the commodity market collapsed. In 1931 came the further increase followed by mortgage foreclosures.

IN 1816 Arthur Young described the conditions in England after the increase of interest rates and during the continually advancing cost of labor. "A state of agricultural misery and ruin as to be almost inconceivable to those who do not connect such a defect with the state want of circulating medium; ruin of the country's banks and a great want of confidence in those that remain." The closed doors of the banks in the memorable days of 1933 echoed those of a century before.

During September of last year all commodities increased 5.6 per cent; farm commodities rose 10.5 per cent during the same period. Last fall hogs were 60 per cent of the average price level of 1909 to 1914; corn 56 per cent; wheat 50 per cent. These depressed prices are one more factor in the imminent market advance.

During the 1914 to 1918 war the expenditures of this country were \$22,500,000,000. The expenses of England were approximately \$12,000,000,000 more. In July, 1940, Sir Kingsley Wood, chancellor of the exchequer in Great Britain, estimated the English war expenses for the year ending March 31, 1941, to aggregate over \$12,000,000,000. The defense program inaugurated by this country adds another tremendous item of expense in the production of non-income producing products. Of such circumstances and conditions have been made the "boom" periods of other years.

"Experience is the teacher of fools," wrote that ancient Roman historian twenty centuries ago. The world has already been given two lessons in the mockery of war-time prosperity. The first one was forgotten in the "boom" days following the armistice of 1918. With conservatism in expenditure and in capital investments and with frozen assets cut to a minimum, the 1920 and 1931 lessons may aid in saving us from the disastrous consequences of another "unlearned lesson."



A bunch of Colorado calves feeding at Washington, Iowa

THE AAA—ITS STRENGTH AND ITS WEAKNESS

By JAMES E. POOLE

AFTER TWO DECADES OF DIS-sension, agriculture has entered on a period of good feeling. Harsh discord has subsided. That any of the many problems affecting crop production and distribution have reached a permanent solution stage is doubtful. At least a powerful and effective analgesic has been applied. Forgotten are the disputes incidental to the McNary-Haugen and Hoover Farm Board periods; not even reminiscent are the various processing tax stunts, export debenture, and numerous other crack-pot schemes to put agriculture on a solvent, profitable basis. At least promised relief on an economic basis has been deferred. And, surprisingly, these problems have been removed from the sphere of political controversy. During the recent presidential campaign, unanimity between the two major parties was evident. Economic illusions have been discarded. The principle that agriculture is to be permanently recompensed for the various handicaps under which it labors by substantial contributions from the national cash box is accepted with a show of equanimity, in view of a prolonged period of acrimonious dispute.

Recalcitrant individuals, once audible, no longer agitate the ambient atmosphere with resentful, if not logical, denunciations. As the "gentle rain of checks" descends noiselessly on the several distinct

producing belts, contentment coagulates. A simple remedy in the shape of a plaster of coin of the realm accomplished what had for years been considered impossible. That the present breathing spell will not be prolonged indefinitely is probable, as already requests for more liberal application of the same emollient are hinted, probably on the Scotch theory that if a "little will do the patient good, more will do him more good." No condition can possibly be static. Already a note of warning comes from Washington concerning accumulating agricultural surpluses plus lack of export demand. War expenditures have, temporarily at least, stimulated domestic food consumption, and the entire civilized world is short of comestibles of every kind, but, even with peace restored, an inevitably impoverished foreign populace will lack purchasing power.

In 1940 Congress appropriated \$918,603,000 for "parity payments and soil conservation;" for federal relief, \$1,157,711,000, although the total for relief was far in excess of this amount, which is merely Uncle Sam's contribution. That the present session of Congress will be asked materially to increase the agricultural appropriation will not be disputed. Stigmatized as "doles" and "bonuses," the official designation is "compensation" for existing inequalities in group income; in other

words, that agriculture is merely getting its just dues. With the resources of the nation taxed by war expenditures, using that term advisedly, additional treasury drafts will encounter strenuous opposition in Congress.

When the "nine old men" handed down a decision de-legalizing the processing tax device for raising crop relief lubricants, they, unconsciously, were responsible for present conditions. Ingeniously the AAA worked out a formula that has had a semi-miraculous influence. Without it the vicious processing tax with its disastrous kick-back would have been applied to all agricultural production, gradually, by including all three major species of domestic animals, if not poultry. "Tapping" the treasury proved both effective and instantaneous. Opposition naturally appeared, but as time worked along practically complete appeasement was effected. The AAA took over for organization purposes the machinery of the American Farm Bureau Federation, the membership of which afforded adequate human energy for a gigantic task, providing township, county, state, and other committees. County farm advisers abandoned their normal functions, concentrating their energies on AAA work.

Out of the recent chaos extending over a prolonged time dating back to the post-war period of 1920 or thereabouts, a measure of order has developed. Certain phases of the AAA program—crop loans in particular—receive practically unanimous approval. Livestock feeders may object to what they consider an artificial price on corn, but they have met the emergency by substituting other feeds in their rations. Corn loans have exercised a stabilizing influence on that grain at the expense of an accumulation, it is true, but the loan figure is not out of line with production cost. The AAA is encountering a new problem in restricted exports and substitution of other raw material by processors. Heavy losses by the federal treasury on corn accumulations may threaten; potentially the government faces a loss of 10 cents per bushel on 190,000,000 bushels of corn, although this situation may change overnight.

One accomplishment of the AAA is increased yields practically everywhere in the Corn Belt, not only of that grain, but substitutes, notably soy beans and hay silage treated with molasses. A story is going the rounds that a book peddler endeavoring to sell a farmer a treatise on agriculture remarked:

"Buy this book, Mr. Farmer, read it thoroughly, and you will be in a position to increase your income by doing better farming."

"Son, I ain't been farming half as well as I know how for the past fifty years," was the response.

And that tells the story briefly but illuminatingly. The AAA has taught an effective lesson in better farming—increased production by up-to-date meth-

ods—by the simple process of stimulation. Agricultural scientists did their bit, farm implement designers contributed, and the fertilizer industry made a practical demonstration of efficiency by devising new formulas. When corn acreage was reduced by payment of federal rents for land taken out of grain production, the use of improved seed, notably hybrids, became general practice. Not only have agronomists substantially increased corn yields but are now developing disease-resisting types. At the Ohio and Illinois experiment stations, a corn borer menace is being met by breeding varieties resistant to this insect. Reducing corn acreage has been largely, if not wholly, nullified by planting rows closer and intensified fertilization. Corn that formerly went into the silo now goes to the crib, silo requirements being met by using alfalfa and other hay treated with molasses. The trend is distinctly toward increased corn production at lower cost, made possible by more efficient machinery. Ten years ago the entire crop was picked by hand over a prolonged period, frequently with the handicap of loss incident to unfavorable weather. Now the mechanical corn picker sends the entire crop to the crib before damage is possible.

TO THE credit of the AAA the following entries must be made:

Inauguration of an era of improved farming, insuring increased acreage production of all staple crops getting federal payment stimulus.

Retiring from cultivation an inestimable acreage of inferior land by its soil conservation effort. Farmers naturally retained highest producing acreage for cultivation.

Relieving producers of necessity for disposing of their property under unfavorable conditions through crop loans. This phase of the program has earned practically unanimous approval, not only of farmers, but businessmen and bankers, as it makes the proceeds of the season's crop production immediately available, sending a stream of cash into every nook and cranny of the farming area. This money is promptly spent meeting maturing obligations for taxes, farm machinery, automobiles, trucks, and other necessities.

The beneficial influence of crop loans plus parity and soil conservation payments is visible in swelling bank deposits and an increased volume of retail business all over the hinterland. Farm buildings are in process of repair everywhere. County seats are crowded, especially on Saturday, with countryside customers spending freely. Even the soda squirts in drug stores and ice cream parlors are busy. Doctors are making collections on back accounts and dentists are dated up weeks ahead. The only discordant note was the relative if not actual low price of hogs, attributable in part at least to the elimination of the export outlet as a

result of the European war. But even that is now quieted with the recent advance in hog prices.

Significant is the attitude of the country editor in a collective sense. When the AAA was launched, paid itinerant agents were sent into the rural sections to distribute propaganda through county seat journals, not always getting cordial receptions, necessitating pressure through the county agents' offices. Under new conditions few editors are not laudatory of the entire program, extolling it and laying statistical emphasis on the substantial addition to farm revenue resulting from AAA contributions.

This discussion is confined to Corn Belt agriculture, a situation with which the writer is in close touch, having talked to several score widely scattered audiences in Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio during the past six months. A decade ago these communities were seething with discontent, which was capitalized by a conspicuous element engaged in "farming the farmer," exploiting various more or less nefarious schemes to get his money, and the atmosphere was surcharged with trouble. That the present situation is profoundly influenced by politics will not be disputed. There is a suggestion of this in the method of distributing federal checks just prior to election when admonition has come forth that never before has Washington taken an active, substantial interest in the farmer's welfare, carrying an intimation that continuance of the program deserves his political support, also that increased appropriations with larger checks are possible.

COUNTY seat bankers, confirmed optimists during the periods of prosperity, are not wholly satisfied with the outlook. A corn surplus piled up everywhere, much of it in "tin cans," as metal receptacles provided by the AAA are known colloquially, disturbs their serenity. Advertised as a normal granary, this accumulation justifies concern, especially as the acreage control device has failed to demonstrate efficacy of yield control. A season of drought would partly solve this problem, but beneficiaries are hell bent on growing more corn to the acre, prompting a hint from Washington that further acreage reduction may be necessary. Prediction of diminishing corn crops is discredited by swelling acre yields. Millions of acres not in profitable production before the program became effective, under the stimulation of intensive cultivation, are making 70 to 100 bushels, confronting the AAA with a serious storage problem, necessitating resort to expensive steel containers clustering around every railroad station in the belt. This grain awaits opportunity to get into market channels where it encounters sales resistance. Potential if not actual deterioration is inevitable. Not all the surplus corn is subject to government loans, as farm cribs are full to the overflow stage.

"We are loaning no money on corn," said an Iowa banker. Bank coffers are overflowing, with no place to go with it. Formerly we could send it to Wall Street, but that avenue is closed and the farm loan business is at a standstill. Many of these loans have been refunded by Washington on a long-term amortization plan that relieves borrowers of anxiety about maturities.

Money for cattle and sheep feeder loans is superabundant, which accounts for crowds at county sales. Speculators running these sales are reaping a harvest, as their money is turned over every few days. They replenish either at western markets or by riding the country. Formerly feeders were under the necessity of getting loans from city banks or stockyard commission houses. Local

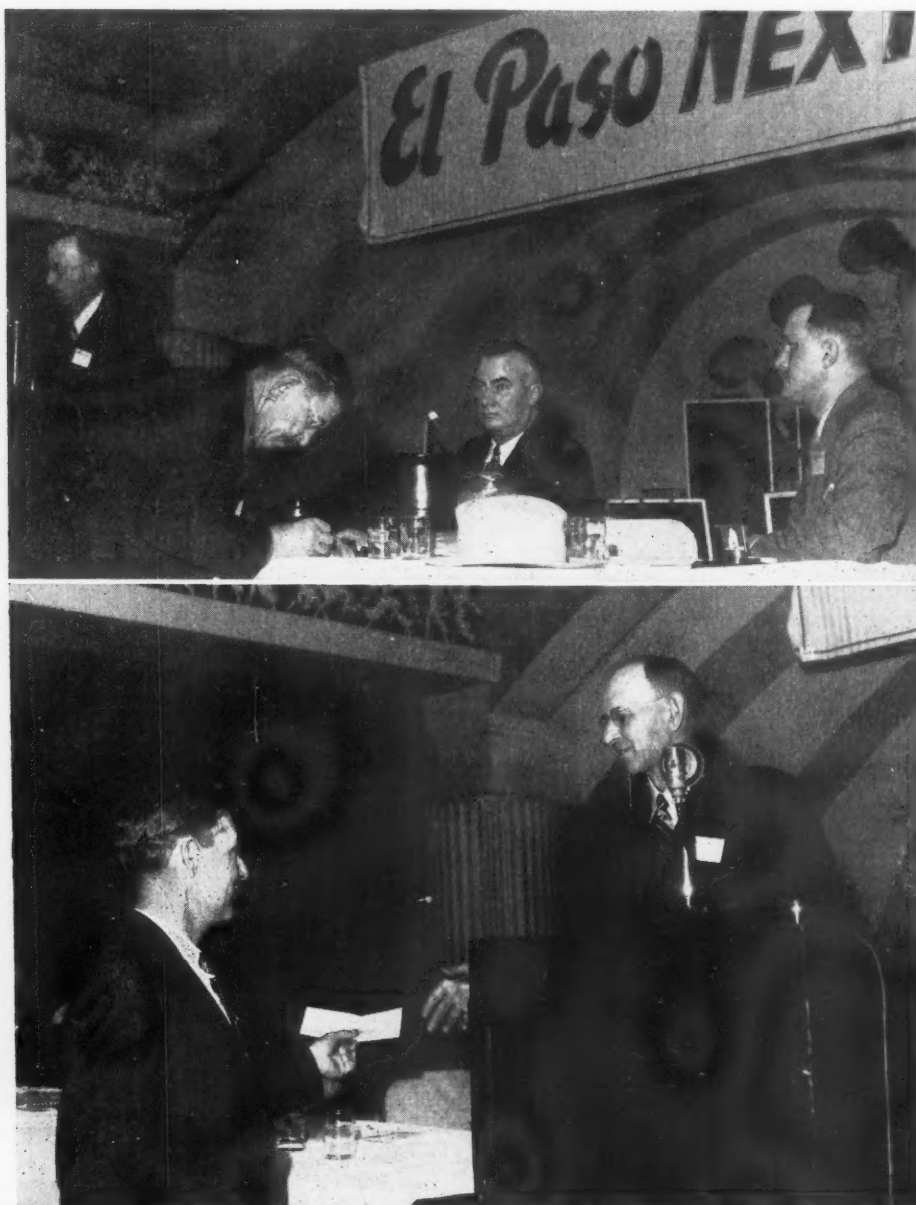
banks monopolize that business now. Suggest to them that you contemplate a feeding operation, and you are handed a brand new cigar.

An audible criticism of the AAA program is the big benefit. A proposition is made seriously to reduce the maximum amount to any corporation or individual to \$1,000. The latest AAA report shows that in 1938 payments in excess of \$100,000 were made to 113 beneficiaries, but that 23 per cent of the payments were less than \$20, another 23 per cent ranging from \$20 to \$40, although the Corn Belt average runs much higher. Insurance companies operating hundreds of farms in the Corn Belt and elsewhere, acquired by foreclosure, are able to carry on with generous government bonus money. In 1938, 16,000 firms and individuals collected \$38,422,685 in agricultural adjustment payments of \$1,000 or more, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company topping the list with \$346,773, the Equitable of New York taking \$305,491. This condition is a fly in the ointment, heralding efforts to eliminate higher bracket payments and increasing those to the rank and file now getting less than \$1,000.

HERE and there an individual is located who persistently and consistently refuses to "sign up." Thousands who assumed that attitude at the outset have come into camp meanwhile either for pecuniary reasons or in response to mild pressure. "I don't like it, believe it is wrong in principle; but, as either myself or my children will eventually be called on to settle the bill, I concluded to take my piece of the money," is a common explanation for sitting in at the distribution. When formulated, the program aroused a hue and cry that it concealed an agricultural dictatorship. Admitting an element of persuasion pressure of the be-a-good-fellow-and-go-along flavor which has induced many to participate, nothing suggestive of compulsion has been detected. Compliance is purely voluntary, as it is profitable.

Looming in the hazy future is probability of "marketing agreements"—a feature of the program likely to develop balking. Acceptance of a check bearing a printed notation that it is a right rather than a privilege and entering a compact to accept dictation as to when, where, and how farm products may be sold are equines of different colors. So perfect is the AAA's organization that it is a cinch bet that a proposition to impose individual sales quotas would start something. The plan is now sailing under fair weather conditions, with a prospect of breakers ahead. Further acreage reductions, plus sales quotas, will furnish a severe test, and apparently both are inevitable if hints from the national capital are worth anything.

Nor is the processing tax bugaboo effectively silenced. Increasing benefits means necessity for more money. The



Record Stockman Photos

More members joined the American National Live Stock Association last year than ever before. Here are portrayed the two types of membership that support the American National: The individual membership (top picture, showing J. M. Cartwright, of Phoenix, Arizona, writing his usual annual \$100 pledge) and the association membership (bottom picture showing Clifford Koontz, Yavapai Cattle Growers' president, Prescott, Arizona, handing American National President J. Elmer Brock the Yavapai's eighth \$1,000 check). Individual and association support to the National is just about on a fifty-fifty basis. Others in the top picture are President Brock at microphone, Second Vice-President J. H. Nason, of Spearfish, South Dakota, behind hat, and Lawrence Mollin, of association headquarters, Denver. Pictures were taken at forty-fourth annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association in January in Fort Worth.

United States Supreme Court has, federal officials contend, made imposition of processing taxes on various commodities, including meat, legal. In the event that this is attempted, at least a verbal revolt will sweep through the Corn Belt, which still retains in its mouth a bad taste of what happened when the \$2 tax per cwt. was put on hogs and the market price broke that much. Even at this late date many hog growers are clamoring for restitution of the hog processing tax money they insist was paid by them. George Putnam, testifying before the Senate Agricultural Committee, asserted that when the tax was imposed packers took it off the price of hogs, and he represented on that occasion the national packers' organization. Revival would naturally include all three species, as any increase in benefits would necessitate raising another \$500,000,000; and, faced with war financing, it is doubtful if Congress would increase the present levy of approximately \$1,000,000,000 on the treasury. There is always a limit.

Otherwise the AAA program is working out as though its machinery were adequately lubricated. Its claim that nobody ever did anything for agriculture previously is not to be seriously disputed. An ancient stage gag ran this way:

"He took four spoons
And an old tin can,
And he made a flivver,
And the darn thing ran."

The AAA took an idea, discredited by the majority when conceived, secured a bunch of money from the federal treasury, and put it over in a manner that confounds an army of skeptics. If the proof of the pudding is the manner in which it digests, further argument is superfluous. Money has not lost its convincing eloquence. Dan Casement's frequently expounded philosophy goes unheeded. At one stage he had a formidable following, which merely demonstrates how readily public sentiment may be switched. If one complaint is recognizable, it is that the present distribution is inadequate. Like Dickens' creation, Oliver Twist, the agrarian populace is clamoring for more.

Charley Collins, the Colorado philosopher, furnishes an appropriate anecdote, disclosing the attitude of the average farmer:

A WPA man and a farmer, walking along a rural highway overtook a mud turtle.

"That turtle reminds me of a WPA employee, barely moving," said the farmer.

Shortly after that a rabbit crashed across the pavement, inspiring the WPAer with a snappy comeback:

"That critter suggests a farmer racing to the county seat to cash his corn-hog check," said he.

The big day in town is when the county agent distributes a batch of Uncle Sam's checks.

HIGHWAY BARRIERS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE

By CHESTER H. GRAY

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION, owing to recent events of military character in Europe, is now recognized as being of much greater importance either for defense or offense in military movements than it heretofore has been.

Whether we like or dislike the already immense defense activities into which our national government is now entering, it must be realized that its ultimate effect—and perhaps its immediate effect—will be to "rub out" highway barriers.

No one group of citizens is more interested in the elimination of highway barriers than are the farmers and stockmen. They pay an immense percentage of the total transportation bill of the nation each year. They cannot be content with any solution of the highway barrier proposition which merely exempts motor vehicles owned and operated by farmers and stockmen from the laws and regulations relating to movements in interstate commerce on the highways of the country.

HAVE YOU JOINED?

To Cattlemen Generally: The American National Live Stock Association during the past year enrolled more new members than in previous years. As problems of the livestock industry become more complicated—as they seem to do with each succeeding year—more stockmen realize the need for a strong, active national organization. So they enroll as members. Being a member of the American National takes nothing from you that is not used to add to your own individual asset and gain. It is simply a case of giving your support so that you and other stockmen can make it possible for the National to handle those affairs which vitally concern you. The fact that the National is a voluntary organization lends a prestige to it, but it does place the responsibility on you as an individual stockman to contribute your financial and moral support.

To Those Who Have Not Joined: Membership in the American National Live Stock Association is only a cent a head—not a lot when you stop to think that this amount is what you pay to assist your national organization in handling all national matters affecting the live stock business and which concerns you. This work is greatly assisted by your various state associations, but your individual membership means much and enables the National to carry on an extensive and beneficial program.

To Those Asking Others to Join: We believe a good way to get a new member is to tell him: "The American National Live Stock Association is working for you whether you pay dues or not; but, I think you will agree, a fellow always feels better when he pitches in and does his share."

To AMERICAN NATIONAL LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATION

515 Cooper Building, Denver, Colorado

Date.....1941

I hereby subscribe to the American National Live Stock Association \$..... to cover membership for the current year, payable....., of which \$1.00 is for a

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year's subscription to the PRODUCER.

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Town.....State.....

To accept that solution of the highway barrier problem would be equivalent to an agreement on the part of farmers and stockmen that they should like to move their own vehicles, hauling their own supplies and products, freely over state lines but would be glad to continue paying an increased cost of transportation which resulted from highway barriers and similar devices on products moved by others.

Farmers and stockmen haul great quantities of their own products and supplies, but the really big transportation bill paid by farmers and stockmen traces to movements in interstate commerce, as well as in intrastate commerce, which farmers have to pay as do other citizens.

Farmers and stockmen thus far have demonstrated that they are wise enough not to be "sold down the river" by the exemption method of solving the highway barrier trouble. In fact, agricultural and livestock organizations are among those which are most insistent in their annual resolutions, as well as in their continued activities, to demand a complete removal of highway barriers.

It is absolutely necessary that the commerce clause of the federal constitution be given greater recognition in regard to highway transportation. Interstate commerce, by the terms of the federal constitution itself, is under the control of the federal government whenever Congress decides to exercise that control. Thus far in our history, owing possibly to the newness of highway transportation, as a nation we are floundering in our efforts to handle highway transportation as a national proposition.

IT IS not meant to imply that states and their proper authorities should be eliminated in regard to highway transportation any more than is the case with any other method of transport. But, on the other hand, it must be recognized that state rights should not be too severely maintained in regard to interstate highway transportation unless at the same time the states recognize their responsibilities relative to highway commerce that flows across state lines.

At the present time we have forty-eight states wrestling with the highway barrier proposition. A logical solution of this entire trouble would be for states to agree, so far as their laws and regulations are concerned, upon common procedures. Much agreement has been reached; much yet remains to be attained; but when it is recognized that some states still maintain ports of entry; others are hesitant to adopt reciprocity agreements with neighboring states; others seemingly desire to use restrictive measures punitively against highway transportation; and still others are hopeful that in some way or another their treasuries will be replenished proportionately to their imposition of highway barriers to interstate commerce, it is seen that one needs to be indeed quite hopeful to expect that the states will

come to a common agreement on this troublesome proposition.

The people as a whole might not have been so conscious about highway barriers at the present time had it not been that several years ago there was a wave of what one may call enthusiasm at state legislatures to enact port of entry statutes. Later several states greatly modified their statutes and pulled the teeth of their regulations having to do with highway barriers.

In the good year 1941 the states have an opportunity still further to repeal port of entry statutes. In the meantime there stands the federal government ready to move on the troublesome proposition simply because the people of the nation have had visualized to them in a spectacular way that highway barriers are troublesome and are restraints on the free flow of interstate commerce by highways.

Much as ports of entry deserve condemnation, in justice to them it may be stated fairly that they represent to the traveling and the shipping public which uses the roads of the nation the troubles which arise from the entire highway barrier problem. They have dramatized, they have made visible, this problem. The public condemns ports of entry.

NOT unrelated to the ports of entry is the reciprocity problem of interstate movements by highways. The relation between reciprocity and ports of entry largely is that the ports are used, where they exist, to enforce reciprocal relationships between and among states, or, more frequently, to enforce the lack of such relationships, which exist in too many cases. The taxes and fees paid on any motor vehicle in its home state together with the registration or identification plates issued by the home state and by the Interstate Commerce Commission, if the latter are required, should be all that is necessary to be displayed on a motor vehicle moving in interstate commerce, so far as fees and taxes are concerned. This procedure would secure complete reciprocity among the states as to fees and taxes.

A principal feature of the reciprocity problem, as it has to do with highway transportation, is the lack of uniformity in sizes and weights of motor vehicles. It is, at first glance, a hopeless task to expect that forty-eight state legislatures would adopt identic specifications for length, height, width, and load. But, years ago, when railroads were young, there was a lot of diversity and lack of uniformity in railroad matters. Even the matter of gauge—that is, the length of the axle of a railroad vehicle—had to be legislated upon by the states so that there could be a freer movement of interstate commerce on the railways.

We are now in a not dissimilar situation relative to uniformity in sizes and weights of motor vehicles. It is not impossible for the states to regulate in similar ways in regard to dimensions and specifications of motor vehicles. Will

the states do it; or will the federal government, following many other trends of the present time, be compelled to?

The State of Texas may be used as an example of one state varying greatly in its laws and regulations. Texas has a 7,000-pound load limit for motor vehicles under certain conditions. A prominent feature of those conditions is that twice that poundage is permissible and is safe if the highway vehicle proceeds no farther than the first railroad station. If it proceeds beyond that legislative terminus the load is halved and, both statutorily and by regulation, immediately becomes fraught with danger to the traveling public and with destruction to the highways of the state.

From the point of view of national transportation—and who has courage enough to view transportation these days other than nationally—such a state statute is wholly out of step with the times. Texas is referred to in all discussions of highway matters, particularly those which relate to reciprocity, as having resorted to the 'nth degree of punitive laws and regulations designed obviously to hinder and harass highway transportation although the stated design of this Texas law was to promote highway safety and to protect the roads of the state.

ONE may look at the history of highway transportation in the last ten or twenty years in state after state, trying to discover why highway barriers of various kinds have been set up. After this examination has proceeded to the point that a conclusion may be reached, the conclusion is forced upon any fair-minded investigator that highway barriers in most instances have been initiated designedly for the purpose of punishing and hindering the natural and beneficial development of highway transportation. Naturally, though, the sponsors of the state statutes which have created these barriers have used other arguments to induce state legislatures to create them.

A word may be necessary in regard to the argument as to whether or not these barriers, such for instance as ports of entry, really cause much new revenue to flow into state treasuries. Fairness in this discussion suggests that more than one state, when it first enacted its port of entry law, was led in part to do so by the thought that here is another method to get a lot more funds into the state treasury. Developments, however, have demonstrated that even ports of entry which do actually collect funds from incoming highway traffic do not pay their way in some states.

If ports of entry, the lack of reciprocity among states, and related highway barriers resulted in a large increase in the revenues of any states, stockmen and farmers might more logically be expected to lend support to these hindrances to highway transportation.

But, unfortunately for those who are advocates of highway barriers, it has not

yet been shown, and it might be doubtful whether the future will show, that highway barriers add to state revenues.

It is interesting to examine one and all highway barriers from the point of view of agricultural welfare in addition to what has already been stated. Not infrequently at state capitals the farmer within any state is used as Exhibit No. 1 in an attempt to demonstrate that whatever barrier is under discussion—port of entry, lack of reciprocity, or what not—it would be good for him. The stockman and farmer does not forget, however, that even when he is exempted in the use of his own motor vehicle in regard to these barriers and wants to go into another state, frequently the number of trips that he can make in a month, or the number of miles he can negotiate in a trip, or the time he can stay in a state other than his own with his motor vehicle, particularly his truck, are not invariably included in the exemptions which have been granted him.

The farmer or stockman who has some agricultural product to sell and wants to haul it to market in a for-hire truck cannot forget that this classification of motor vehicle is subject to all the regulations incident to highway barriers. As a result the services performed by the for-hire vehicle must immediately, or eventually, be a bit higher in price than would otherwise be the case.

Highway barriers, particularly ports of entry, have become well known as the place to prohibit the passage of the itinerant trucker—the fellow who is trying to make an honest living by hauling miscellaneous in his own truck. He is competing with other methods of transportation and is in competition with other marketing methods. Consequently the itinerant trucker is met at state lines which have ports of entry. And the warning hand of the law and the closed fist of regulation are held before him in such manner usually as to prevent his continuing to perform services to the farmer and rancher.

It should not be forgotten that the farmers and stockmen always have used the highways in their own business and have sold their products to, as well as have bought their supplies from, those who come along the road and offer decent prices. In these days of modern highway transportation, however, with the radius of operation of the itinerant trucker increasing beyond that which existed in the days of the horse-drawn vehicle, we see many evidences that the farmer, to sell his products or to buy his supplies, with transportation provided other than by his own vehicle, must not have resort to the itinerant trucker but must use those methods of transportation which are, as it were, superlatively regulated by federal and state commis-

sions. All this, sooner or later, has an effect on net profits.

The itinerant trucker, of course, needs regulation just as does any other operator of a modern vehicle. When he transports and sells commodities in the markets of any state and of the nation he must comply with the marketing laws, the sanitary requirements and the purity standards which the nation enjoys these days. This is but another way of saying that the itinerant trucker, being an agency to expand the radius of marketing and purchasing for the American farmer and stockman, should be regulated as a marketer rather than as a transporter.

If this is not done—realizing that the itinerant trucker is engaged in private transportation—and if the itinerant trucker should be taxed and regulated off the highways, the next step logically would be to regulate and tax the farmer or the stockman off the highways. He too is engaged in private transportation. Therein lies a great danger.

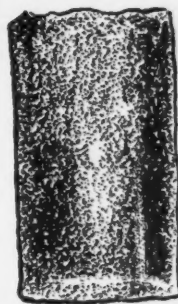
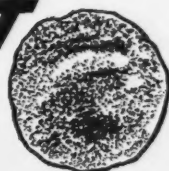
This danger is directly related to highway barriers because they are used to hinder a type of transportation which stockmen and farmers always have used, almost without restraint so far as government is concerned, until recent years.

AFTER the entire highway barrier proposition is examined from all of its aspects and angles, the stockman and

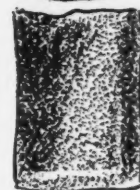
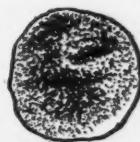


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the farmer inevitably come to the conclusion that one such barrier is bad and all of them put together are intolerable. Therefore, they should be removed whether they exist in the form of regulations or of state statutes.

But all citizens have an interest in highway barriers, their prevention and removal. Several methods are available to make interstate commerce by any and all methods of transportation as free as possible of restraints and obstructions. Prominent among these procedures would be the adoption by state after state—or, that failing, the promulgation by the federal government—of some uniform standards relating to sizes and weights of motor vehicles. A good place to start on this enterprise is the specifications contained in the recommendations of the American Association of State Highway Officials. A next step would be to consider modern developments in highway transportation and check the formula of the American Association of State Highway Officials against such recommendations as those recently issued by the Western Highway Officials, by the Society of Automotive Engineers, by the petroleum group, and others.

Another step in the right direction to remove highway barriers is for the spirit of reciprocity, in regard to highway transportation among the states, to grow and flourish rather than to be restricted, as has been evidenced in too many instances within the last decade.

Some advocate as a cure for the highway barrier disease that states should retaliate against those states which are obviously least friendly to highway transportation. But retaliation is a dangerous weapon. It spreads rather than cures the disease.

Perhaps, after all is said and done, public opinion, next to the threatened entrance of the federal government into the highway barrier snarl, is the most effective way to rid the nation of these obstructions to interstate commerce. Public opinion, these days, reflects itself mightily in organizations such as the American National Live Stock Association. One such organization, multiplied ten and fifty times, as is true of the present situation in the United States, contending against highway barriers and insisting that highway transportation flow freely across state lines, will serve, and is serving, a great public interest. Public opinion, organization watchfulness, national defense—these might well be considered the trio which will eliminate the highway barriers with which the nation is now infested and prevent others being set up.

(Chester H. Gray (photo, page 16) is director of the National Highway Conference, Washington, D. C. This article is from a speech by him at the forty-fourth annual convention of the American National Live Stock Association in Fort Worth in January.—Ed.)

CO-OPERATION NEEDED IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE*

By OSCAR JOHNSTON

I APPRECIATE VERY SINCERELY the opportunity that has been accorded me, not a member of your organization, to bring to you a message from the National Cotton Council of America.

I shall not trespass on your time or bother you with a detailed outline of what that organization is founded for, other than to say that it is to the cotton industry what I believe the American National Live Stock Association is to the livestock industry. It is a delegated body, representative of cotton growers, cotton ginners, cotton warehouse men, cotton merchants or shippers, and cottonseed crushers—the interests engaged in the raw cotton industry. The membership of that organization is made up from selected delegates from each of the fourteen cotton producing states of these United States. Those delegates are selected from each of the five branches by organized groups within the interests. In other words, the State Ginners' Association selects ginners, the State Warehousemen's Association selects warehouse men, etc. When I say to you the organization is truly and directly representative of the raw cotton industry you may understand just what I mean.

I appreciate most sincerely the invitation to talk to you about some phases of the identity of interest between the various branches of agriculture. I have of course no purpose or idea of attempting to tell you people anything about your industry. I am a mere novice, a tenderfoot, just butting into the cattle business in a small way, trying to grow into it rather than buy into it by trying to butt into it, you might say. I am trying to learn cow "savvy," cow talk, and something about it. I wish some of you would supply me with a glossary as to what a canner, a cutter, and a feeder is. All I know is what a sucker is.

There is a very genuine identity of interest between the people engaged in agriculture. If there is doubt in the minds of any regarding the needs and necessities of that great area of these United States, that great percentage of the population embraced in the Middle West, the West, and the South, their need for advancement, their need for a greater participation in the national income, that doubt will be dispelled if you will take the trouble to go to a bookstore and get a book, *United We Fall*, written by a Texan, in which he points out and supports his statements with statistical information that is correct. I shall not bother you with a long dissertation. If we would preserve our

form of government—and I am not quarreling with the form of the government, although I may quarrel with the substance of it, which is the result of our own activities, of our own neglect—we will take heed and do something to correct the substance or the manner of the application of that government. Abraham Lincoln said that no nation could exist and prosper part slave and part free. He was right. And I say no nation can exist and prosper with one scale of income and one scale of standard of living for one substantial group and a different standard of living and a different scale of income for another group. It will not work.

Notwithstanding that fact, the distribution of national income of this country has been for many years inequitable, unjust, unsound, and uneconomic. The income of those who are engaged in agriculture, with the possible exception of producers of some specialty crops, as compared with income of those who work in what is known generally as industrial labor is tragic. The difference in income on the invested dollar per hour of labor per unit of brain power required by those engaged in agriculture and the industrialist or the capitalist is great and is unfair. That situation is the result of the development of organization and of the activity of so-called pressure groups. Agriculture has been notoriously not only not organized but disorganized.

I recommend to your organization, to the wheat growers, to the corn growers, to the cotton growers, to the livestock growers, the producers of America's major agricultural commodities, a co-ordination of effort and co-operation and of activity. Let us take, for example, the American industrial laborers. Until recently, when they were split into two different camps, they were remarkably well organized. You did not have an organization simply of the workers in automobile factories but you had another organization of workers in the textile mills, and another organization of the longshoremen, and teamsters, and car drivers. You had those organizations, yes, but every one of those organizations headed up and centered in the American Federation of Labor, and today all organized labor in America heads up either in the C.I.O. or the A.F. of L., and those two groups combined, representing less than 6 per cent of the electorate of America, make themselves heard and are represented on every board or agency or commission that deals with any governmental activity. Capital is organized and is rep-

*Address at American National Convention in Fort Worth on January 8.

resented. I say to you that it is important that agriculture occupy at least a common position in the council chambers of the nation as organized labor and organized capital are represented.

TODAY we are conscious of the uncertainties that exist, we are all conscious of the necessities for the maximum effort for total war and total defense. There is not a great deal of quarrel about the soundness of the idea. Some day, through necessity, by sheer exhaustion if not by the triumph of reason, the wars in Europe and in the Orient will cease. Conferences will be held, delegates and representatives will be selected from the major powers of the world to assemble for the purpose of working out a world peace under which we must exist for another period of time—until another cataclysmic condition develops. Will agriculture be represented at that council table? And, if so, by whom and under what circumstances? Will it be theorists and professional economists? And, understand, I do not underestimate the value of the professional economists or the theorists. They are important, they are worth while. All of us employ their services and heed their advice to some extent, but they do not take the place of practical men who have learned that a lot of the theories won't work, and they have learned it by going broke trying to make them work.

It is important that agriculture be organized and that the groups representing agriculture be organized—the wheat, the tobacco, and the cattle groups. I urge the vital importance of leaders selected by those groups coming together around their council tables for the purpose of developing an agricultural program that is comprehensive.

I illustrate it by a personal situation. I live on the banks of the Mississippi River in what is known as the Delta of Mississippi. That area is approximately 160 miles in length and 80 miles in width at its widest point, in a half circle shape. That area is flat and low and was first protected from floods by levees. Then it became necessary to provide artificial drainage, and every little group in every section, at the instance of lawyers and engineers, organized countless hundreds of local drainage districts, and they sold millions of dollars in bonds that became a lien on this land for the purpose of setting up dozens of little disjointed and uncoordinated districts, pouring water on each other and moving it on to the next one. Now an effort is being made to put it all in one vast drainage area and system under which there will be one supervising engineer or engineering body.

That situation is typical of the various groups of corn producers, of cotton producers, and other producers that

fight and quarrel about programs and ideas. They may undertake to erect trade barriers within particular states. For example, Wisconsin may levy some kind of a tax—and Wisconsin is largely engaged in dairying—it may erect a wall to prevent oleomargarine from coming in there, to prevent oleomargarine produced in Mississippi from coming into Wisconsin. An internal fight may develop, and Mississippi may undertake to enact a law that requires all butter sold to be labeled or marked as to its artificial coloring. We may start to penalize ourselves by the erection of various trade barriers as between the different states. We may meet in Washington and quarrel over the division of appropriations that have been made and argue about whom they shall be divided among. Various interests may engage in those quarrels, but we are merely cutting our own throats.

There should be a gathering of men selected and authorized to speak for the American National Live Stock Association, for the cotton council, for the wheat groups, for the corn groups, commodity organizations, headed up into an agricultural organization authorized to speak for agriculture. Bear in mind that a distinct majority of the membership of the electoral college by which our President is elected and a distinct majority of the membership of the Senate and House of Representatives come from states that are predominately agricultural; and, if the agricultural groups will discontinue their policy of bickering and will unite in a single effort, there is no doubt what the attitude of Congress and the entire nation will be. I know of no instrument in the world more keenly and finely attuned to wave lengths than the ear of the politician to the voice of his constituency. If we are organized, the result will be, I believe, highly satisfactory.

WHAT is the situation with us? On the plantation that we operate we did plant, did operate 17,000 acres in cotton. We have been cut under the government



program 8,000 acres. That 8,000 acres that we have been cut we are not now permitted to put in cotton. On that land the taxes average \$1.25 per acre. The normal upkeep of improvements which are necessary on that land will average another \$1.50 per acre. To prevent it from growing up in weeds and noxious grasses and sprouts, to prevent it from going back into the wilderness, it must be kept in some form of cultivation, and that costs \$3 to \$5 an acre more. Some one will say, "You are paid for doing that." We are paid a total of \$9,890 for that 8,000 acres that we have taken out of cotton, which costs us \$25,000 to maintain. We must get a revenue from that land. We must find something into which we can put it. We have adequate fresh water. We have a climate that goes to freezing occasionally but seldom goes to zero. We have year-round open pasturage. We have woods near our cleared lands in which cattle can winter and winter without a pound of feed and come out reasonably slick, and so we don't require the building of barns. We can use trench silos. We are not required to go to a great deal of expense, and so the natural inclination in that area is turning to livestock.

Now, please don't misunderstand me. I do not want to be understood as suggesting a threat. I am stating an existing fact. There are today scattered up and down that delta area half a dozen or a dozen livestock yards in the little towns, and commercial livestock men are engaged in selling their livestock. There have been shipped in that area in the past three or four years hundreds, literally thousands, of Herefords from this state. There have been developed and bred cattle that at Des Moines two or three years ago took the prize of the nation in both bulls and cows. That country is getting in the livestock game. That land grows grass, and it is near cottonseed mills, and it can produce grain as well as hay. It can produce alfalfa with four or five tons per acre yield. So, I say that area is getting in the livestock game. That is a threat, in a way, to the existing livestock industry, a threat to that industry and to the people who have their capital invested in it.

There is today a fairly satisfactory price prevailing for your products. There never was a time when the price of wheat and corn was satisfactory to the man that raises it. Cotton is down 50 per cent below parity. You are at least on a parity, so far as prices of livestock are concerned. But will you remain there? Your products have a domestic market. You have developed an industry based upon an economy of domestic consumption. You produce a sufficient quantity of meat to feed the nation. The consumption of your commodity is not seriously and vitally affected by peaks and low points in our economic welfare, because people must eat. They do economize to a certain extent. A low buying power of the public cuts down consump-

tion but not in a major fashion. You are on a domestic production basis; but, if an appreciable part of the 17,500,000 acres that have been taken out of the production of cotton in fourteen states goes into the livestock industry, then neither you nor they will get anything like a parity price. The industry as a whole will have been pulled down, and neither of us then can make good in the business.

The answer is, in my judgment, co-ordination of activity: for you to see that we don't go out of cotton, and for our finding other revenue producing capacities for our land.

WE ARE in a peculiar situation at the moment. Cotton is, in my judgment, a war orphan. During the World War we called war babies things that got rich out of the war. Then, I take it that a war orphan is a thing that was impoverished by the war. The cotton industry in this country was developed for the production of cotton to be shipped to Europe. Cotton had been produced for years and years and shipped to Europe when there was not a cotton mill in this country. The crop was an export crop. Originally 95 per cent was exported. In later years 60 to 65 per cent of the annual production was exported. Then, because of economic developments within this country, that export declined to around 45 per cent to 55 per cent annually, and we began piling up a surplus under Mr. Hoover and Mr. Hyde under their efforts

to protect the price, which failed. That surplus has been gradually growing.

In an effort to meet the situation, the present administration in 1933 began the AAA. And, understand, I am not criticizing. Under the new economy an effort was made to balance production with consumption. We cut production from 41,000,000 acres to 24,000,000 acres within a few years. Last year we cut production to 11,500,000 bales. In 1936 the Supreme Court overthrew the act, and before the act could be passed in 1937 production jumped up and a surplus of 18,000,000 bales piled up. Seventeen million acres have been taken out of cultivation, and since that time until the development of the present war and present strained relations between this country and Japan we have produced that which was annually consumed domestically and exported.

Congress wisely enacted the Neutrality Act in an effort to keep us clear of war. Great Britain wisely adopted a blockade of continental Europe. Therefore, because of the instrumentality of the Neutrality Act of our own and the making of the British blockade—which the United States approves entirely, I believe—we are denied access to the European markets, and Great Britain, with the remnant of her shipping left, finds it necessary to use it all for munitions of war and equipment and materials necessary to conduct the war and denies the right of shipments of cotton, and a 5,000,000-bale market is blocked

for the duration of the war. Strained relations developed because of our attitude toward Japan. I am not quarreling with that. But that relation cut off 1,250,000 bales of cotton. Recently 175,000 bales have gone to Russia. It was found that cotton was filtering back into continental Europe and steps now are being taken to plug that. We have reached the conclusion now that if we export 1,250,000 bales this year we will be lucky. That will be the lowest export of cotton since the time when the effort to preserve the Union in 1861-65 was made, when the Union forces found it necessary to blockade the southern states. Not since that time have we gone down to 1,000,000 bales. Again, we have piled up a lot of cotton. We say the government should go along with this program and accumulate a good stock of cotton. The suggestion comes from Washington that we must curtail acreage and confine production to domestic consumption.

I tell you of this situation that is developing for the purpose of asking you to co-operate with us to avoid it. How? I believe 95 per cent of the people in America think the government is right when we build up an enormous stock, pile up a big inventory of tin, of manganese, of rubber, and other materials essential to the national defense. We have said that we are spending billions of dollars in piling up vast inventories of those materials as a matter of national defense—and it is a wise precaution, I think. But suppose peace comes, and we

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have \$1,000,000,000 worth of rubber and \$1,000,000,000 worth of other materials of all kinds? What will their value be? How long will it take to get it absorbed in trade? Then, why the terrible fear of our government piling up some cotton during the period of the blockade? Cotton does not deteriorate. If you protect it from the weather, in forty years it will make the same kind of yarn as it did when it was stored.

Unlike war materials, when peace is declared there will be a tremendous void to be filled then, which is needed in peacetime. That man who says when the war is over that we are to be denied world trade, that we might as well get on a domestic basis, that man might as well say that the Axis powers will win the war. If England and the United States dictate the terms of peace, why have we lost the world market? Taking the most pessimistic view, if the Axis powers win, a form of peace will have to be developed, and the people of Europe will wear clothes—and there never has been a substitute, a satisfactory substitute, found yet for cotton, nor have they been able to produce any in Europe except a few bales in Greece. There will be a way and a means developed with our power and with our might, and if we carry out, as I believe we will, our future development of a navy in the Pacific Ocean and the development of a navy in the Atlantic sufficient to cope with the navies of the world and maintain sound relations with our neighbors to the north

and south of us, there is no reason why this nation cannot trade and deal with the nations of the world upon our terms.

In closing, let me say that when submitting definite recommendations, I never, as a matter of pride, talk before any group merely citing a lot of difficulties without suggesting an appropriate remedy. I am willing to discuss and argue out, and give and take, and yield and advance as the necessities indicate. I make the recommendation again that the American National Live Stock Association, the National Cotton Council, and other organizations representing the producers, representing the basic agricultural interests, come together for discussions, for the development of an American agricultural economy, to put agriculture on an equality with labor and industry.

ARIZONA CATTLEMEN IN 'BEST CONVENTION'

ON FEBRUARY 7-9 THE ARIZONA Cattle Growers' Association held its annual convention. "By the evening of the 6th the streets of Kingman were lined with cars from all over Arizona. They just kept pouring in all evening in the middle of a pouring rain until more than 400 cattlemen and women were present by the time the convention got going," writes Mrs. J. M. Keith in the association's "News Letter." "Time after

time we heard it said 'This is the best convention I have ever attended.'"

The association's "News Letter" gives highlights of the convention, from which we cull the following paragraphs:

"The executive meeting of members on the 6th was well attended. Ed Jameson, state representative from Mohave County, presided in his usual happy way of making people do as he wants them to. He was able to get almost every one present up on his feet to talk, and the meeting was hard to break up, even at midnight.

"On the morning of the 7th, President Louie Horrell had to ring his big cowbell several times to move the crowd from the headquarters to the Elks Hall where the meetings were held.

"Bill Wall, president of the Mohave Stock Growers' Association, gave the address of welcome and introduced Professor John Girdler, who added his welcome, too.

"President Horrell gave his annual address and presided at all the meetings.

"Dan McKinney was delegated by the governor to represent him. While we were glad to have Dan (he belongs to us, anyway), we were sorry that Governor Osborn found it impossible to attend, since it marked the first time in thirty-seven years that the governor of the state did not greet the cattlemen at some time during their convention.

"President Elmer Brock of the American National Live Stock Association gave a splendid talk on matters of national importance.

"Dr. P. S. Burgess, dean of the agricultural college at Tucson, told in a very

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interesting way the early history of the cattle business and brought it down to the present.

"R. E. Doe, executive vice-president of Safeway Stores, told of the very helpful project his organization is carrying out to increase beef consumption.

"A. P. Davies, representing the American Meat Institute, showed moving pictures and explained the 'Meat on the March' advertising campaign which the Institute has been carrying on. We learned that meat now has the stamp of approval of the American Medical Association, which means much in this present 'health conscious' age.

"D. R. Phelps, of the National Livestock and Meat Board, showed the 'Meat and Romance' moving picture which is being shown in some 200 cities of the nation almost every day and which we feel sure will have a tremendously beneficial effect toward greater consumption of meats. The end of 1941 should show a much higher per capita meat consumption than for the last several years. The United States is one of the smallest per capita meat consuming nations in the world.

"Henry G. Boice, president of the Arizona Tax Research Association, gave a report on the accomplishments of their first year. He started off by saying, 'After thirty-seven years the Arizona Cattle Growers' Association has a baby. It is the Arizona Tax Research Association, which was conceived at our Nogales convention one year ago and officially born one month later.' After Henry told all that this 'yearling' has accomplished, the members were proud to claim it as their own.

"Other good talks and many round-table discussions were heard during the two-day program."

The Mohave County cattlemen and women proved to be superlative hosts, Mrs. Keith writes, staging a "beautiful banquet for 350 people at which Charley Pickerell was toastmaster." Of the dance on the 8th: "A grand ball, sure enough." Concerning other entertainment: "And did you ever have a barbecue at midnight? That is what we had."

The association presented Mrs. Keith with a Chevrolet sedan. In her words of thanks she said, "As I sit here trying to tell you how I appreciate this gift, I feel so very humble; for already I have had more joy than any one person is entitled to just from your friendship alone."

Election of officers resulted in re-electing Louis Horrell, president; Tom Heady, first vice-president; and Norman Fain, second vice-president. Horrell requested the committee to select a new president, "but everyone said he had done such a swell job they would simply 'draft' him for another year."

Resolutions passed at the convention included the following:

Opposing modification of the embargo applying to countries where foot-and-mouth disease exists, so that the national defense program, the livestock industry, and associated industries may be adequately protected.

Condemning exertion of group pressure upon the Arizona legislature for expenditures not vital to public welfare.

Endorsing the principles set forth in S.3532, which promotes stability of grazing on the national forests.

Endorsing the principles involved in the Taylor Grazing Act and urging that the Department of the Interior as rapidly as possible grant long-term permits, issue long-term leases under Section 15, and complete all state land selections and exchanges.

Commending the Bureau of Animal Industry for its research which made possible calfhood vaccination for control of Bang's disease.

Endorsing the McCarran national animal theft bill which would make it a federal felony to transport stolen livestock across state lines.

Urging adequate protection from coyotes.

Approving passage of S.254 to clear title to ceded lands on San Carlos Indian Reservation.

Requesting that facilities and personnel of the extension service be used to prevent duplication of effort and that economy of administration be striven for.

Commending the activities of the American Meat Institute and the National Livestock and Meat Board in their meat advertising campaign.

Thanking officers of the American National Live Stock Association for help to the livestock industry of Arizona.

Urging support for the Arizona Tax Research Association.

Urging the Arizona Livestock Production Credit Association and the Production Credit Corporation of Berkeley to study matter of lower inspection costs as a way better to serve the small livestock operator.

Opposing elimination of borrower investment in the land bank system or government guarantee of farm loan bonds because of belief in decentralized supervision and greater borrower control.

Urging continuation of the right to transport individual's own products and supplies over highways with the least possible regulations.

Asking for clarification of the Wages-and-Hours Act relative to the overtime exemption period applying to meat processors.

Asking that no additional lands in Arizona be established as national parks or monuments and no enlargement of existing parks or monuments be made.

COLORADO STOCKMEN IN MIDWINTER MEETING

SPEAKERS AT THE MID-WINTER meeting of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association, held in Denver in mid-January, included Roy M. Green, president of Colorado State College; Wilmer McMillen, of Colorado State College; Harry Petrie, official of the AAA; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association; and State Veterinarian Dr. R. M. Gow.

Action taken by the association in-

cluded approval of S.3532—a bill which would make mandatory the functioning of advisory boards in the Forest Service and insure stability of operation on forests; request for a uniform bill of sale law, giving authority to the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners to define, issue, and enforce use of uniform bills of sale; approval of the resolutions of the American National Live Stock Association adopted at Fort Worth and contribution of \$300 to that organization's support.

The stockmen asked that the Colorado legislature prepare a memorial on the foot-and-mouth disease subject to be presented to Congress. The group favored powers for the State Game and Fish Commission which would permit extension of open seasons on deer, antelope, and elk in heavily overstocked areas. It was suggested that the bothersome beaver problem might be solved by methods of control previously existing, under which ranchers had authority to aid in limiting numbers.

It was urged that a committee be appointed to work with State Veterinarian Dr. R. M. Gow and Association Secretary B. F. Davis to work out a plan for calfhood vaccination for Bang's disease.

* * *

Colorado stockmen, legislators, and the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners met in Denver January 15 to discuss livestock laws. One amendment that will be sought would change bond requirements at sales rings from \$1,000 to \$5,000. Another legal change would require butchers to file their bonds with the state board rather than the county commissioners. A new uniform bill of sale law was also discussed by the group. Under it the form of the bill of sale and administration of the act would be left to the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners.

FLORIDA CATTLEMEN HOLD BIGGEST MEETING

CATTLEMEN AT THE ANNUAL convention of the Florida State Cattlemen's Association heard one speaker predict that "if the cattle industry in Florida grows in the next ten years like it has in the past five it will be one of the top states," another say that the "state was first in the southeast and eleventh in the nation in cattle population," a third declare that "the Florida association stands as high as any state association in the country," and others promise "to do everything possible to assist this great industry."

A full-time secretary was proposed at the convention and continuation of the association's official organ, the *Florida Cattleman and Dairy Journal*, was voted. The convention, "the largest ever held," met at Okeechobee January 22 and 23.

Association growth and expansion was further shown in the resolution "that the Florida State Cattlemen's Association

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



Dave Turner

Knapp, state veterinarian; Dr. A. L. Shealy, of the college of agriculture at Gainesville; and A. O. Kanner, state senator, Fort Pierce.

Dave Turner, Bradley Junction, was elected president to succeed P. E. Williams, Davenport. Three vice-presidents were elected—Hooker Parker, Arcadia; Henry O. Partin, Kissimmee; and J. J. Love, Quincy. E. V. Whidden, Brewster, was named treasurer to succeed Irlo Bronson. Secretary is J. R. Gunn. His report to the convention pointed out that the association is going forward and that a full-time secretary should be named. He said he would have to resign because of the pressure of other business.

Among the resolutions adopted was the request that the present embargo on Argentine livestock and meat be continued. The resolution recited "that while we are in sympathy with Western Hemisphere defense, we also desire that our own existence be defended, and that the best way to do this is to retain the present embargo."

At the convention dinner, Harold Colee, secretary of the Florida State Chamber of Commerce, urged cattlemen to consider the problem of educating the Florida meat consumer. He said that Florida cattle are shipped to other states to come back as "western" beef and even local beef appears on hotel menus as "western steak." "This means we have a lot to do educationally right here in our own state," he said.

ASSOCIATION NOTES

AMONG RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED at the National Wool Growers' Association convention in Spokane, Washington, recently was the pledge that the sheepmen would support the national defense program. "The sheep industry is bearing its full share of advancing costs," the resolution stated, but "stands ready to make any needed sacrifice to achieve the great purpose for which the nation now labors." Other resolutions included the request that the Department of Agriculture use the years 1921-30 instead of 1909-14 in arriving at parity prices for wool, on the grounds that the other years were years of unusually low value; the suggestion that the executive committee arrange to

apply for membership in the American National Live Stock Association."

Speakers at the convention included R. E. Hamrick, Okeechobee, who gave the welcoming address; N. Ray Carroll, of Deer Park; Nathan Mayo, commissioner of agriculture; Dr. J. V.

place an association representative in the nation's capital; and the expression of belief in "the efficiency of a protective tariff as the most potent factor concerned in making this nation strong, self-reliant, and able to lead the procession in protecting the democratic form of government at home and abroad."

BANG'S SUBJECT DISCUSSED

Bang's disease was one of the important subjects discussed at a joint meeting of the Boulder County and the Lyons stock growers' associations, held at Boulder, Colorado, on February 5. State Veterinarian Dr. R. M. Gow and Dean Floyd Cross of the Colorado State College veterinary department talked on the subject, explaining federal approval of calfhood vaccination and plans to work out a program of Bang's disease control for Colorado. Secretary B. F. Davis of the Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Association talked on livestock legislation in Colorado and the federal sanitary embargo against animals and products from countries having foot-and-mouth disease.

OPPOSES PRICE RISE

The twenty-fourth annual Highland Hereford Breeders' Association meeting was held January 25 at Marfa, Texas. All officers were re-elected for another term. George Jones is president, Hays Mitchell, vice-president. The Highland association has always maintained that abnormally high prices in cattle are not in the best interest of the beef industry in the long run. When cattle prices get too high, someone is bound to suffer when the prices fall. To this end the association passed a resolution, setting

forth that during the present national emergency, beef is an essential commodity; that in times like these when excessive demands for commodities are liable to cause price rises that would curtail the consumption of beef and be harmful to the majority of the people it is the sentiment of the Highland Hereford Breeders' Association that the price of beef and beef products should be held within range where more people would use and enjoy them; that the producers of beef are desirous of co-operating in the program of national defense in producing and marketing beef at a fair price, thereby permitting it to flow freely through trade channels, and resolving that the meeting opposes the rise of prices of commodities of all kinds beyond a fair price.—DR. A. J. HOFFMAN, Secretary.

NEW MEXICO MEETING

The New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association will hold its twenty-seventh annual convention in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on March 24-25. Twelve hundred cattlemen, according to an association release, may attend. Among the speakers who have already accepted invitations to speak are: Governor John E. Miles, Santa Fe; Governor A. G. Black of the Farm Credit Administration; Jay Taylor, president of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Association; Edward N. Wentworth, of Armour and Company, Chicago; R. C. Pollock, general manager of the National Live Stock and Meat Board; F. E. Mollin, secretary of the American National Live Stock Association; President Hugh M. Milton II, New Mexico State Agricultural College, Las Cruces; and H. R. Davison, vice-president of the American Meat Institute. Con W. Jack-

ANIMAL HEALTH ESSENTIAL TO NATIONAL DEFENSE

VETERINARIANS all over the country are warning stockmen especially to guard the health of their livestock as a defense measure. The sanitary regulations prohibiting the importation of livestock and fresh meat products from countries having communicable diseases should be strictly enforced.

Write any of the following for details: Intermountain Live Stock Credit Corporation, Denver; Producers' Live Stock Marketing Association at Salt Lake City, Ogden, Los Angeles, or Omaha; Producers' Live Stock Commission Association, Sioux City; Texas Live Stock Marketing Association at Fort Worth, San Antonio, or Houston; or

National Live Stock Marketing Association

160 N. LaSalle Street

Chicago, Ill.

son, president of the New Mexico association, announced that all cattlemen in the state are invited to attend and take part in the convention. The association has more than 1,100 members—highest in the history of the organization, Jackson said.

COASTAL CATTLE GROUP MEETS

More than 200 cattlemen attended the annual convention of the Coastal Cattle Association, held at Beaumont, Texas, January 11. W. P. H. McFaddin, Jr., was elected president. J. F. Combs was re-named secretary. Secretary Combs in his annual report told of the work done in curbing cattle thefts, in pasture improvement, and in sponsoring a program to introduce more purebred stock. F. W. Neuhaus gave a brief report on traffic matters. An interesting item in the legislative report concerned the 7,000-pound load limit for trucks in Texas.

EAGLE COUNTY MEETING

The Eagle County (Colorado) Stock Growers' Association at a meeting in December, re-elected Chester Mayer president, Ray Chatfield vice-president, and Dorris Johnson secretary-treasurer. Speakers at the meeting included Supervisor J. Leighou of the Holy Cross National Forest and Claude H. Rees, member of the State Board of Stock Inspection Commissioners.

GRADUATED TAX DEFEATED

The house of representatives in the Oklahoma legislature recently voted down a graduated land tax measure. The close vote was 55 to 53. The Oklahoma Live Stock Association, whose headquarters are in Oklahoma City, with Joe Jarboe and Bobby Vincent as new president and new secretary, respectively, opposed the legislation. Jarboe is also president of the livestock exchange at the Tulsa stockyards.

CAMPAIGN TO REMOVE BARRIERS

Six activities to encourage "free trade among the several states" as "imperative in the interests of national defense and for the promotion of unity" were listed in a resolution adopted by the Council of State Governments at its fifth general assembly in Washington last month. These were: (1) Discouraging trade barrier bills or retaliatory legislation by states which feel themselves aggrieved by legislation of their neighbors; (2) encouraging repeal of barrier legislation already adopted; (3) encouraging enactment of uniform laws and adoption of reciprocal compacts to reduce barriers between states; (4) initiating regional hearings to follow through the recommendations of the assembly and the National Conference on Interstate Trade Barriers; (5) urging governors to veto



Chester H. Gray, expert on trade barriers, discusses the subject on page 7.

legislation which would result in additional barriers; (6) establishing joint committee on federal-state relations to consider trade barrier problems having to do with federal-state relations.

NORTH ARIZONA MEETING

Stockmen attending the Northern Arizona Cattle Growers' Association annual meeting on January 25 at Holbrook, Arizona, elected Rance Spurlock, president; Bill Spence, Apache County vice-president and director; Boss Chilson, Coconino County vice-president and director; C. D. McCauley, Navajo County vice-president and director; and Genevieve Jones, secretary-treasurer. The members decided to organize a junior association.

REGISTERED BULL LAW

The Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers' Association is sponsoring a law which would provide for the exclusive use of registered bulls of beef breeds on community ranges in Oregon, according to the association's official organ, the *Oregon Cattleman*. Complaints about the kind of bulls turned on the open range have been common, but nothing much has been done about it "except to cuss them and take them as part of the hazard of the business," declared the *Cattleman*. The proposed law is designed to correct the defects of two laws the state already has dealing with the problem. One of the present laws provides only for the use of a bull of beef breeding, the letter of which can be lived up to even if a "milk cow's calf of proper color were used." The other—an ancient one—providing for an official "whose badge of office was a sharp knife and whose activities were sanctioned," has

not worked, because "in all the years of our experience we have never seen a range man who would accept this honorable but thankless position."

PAINTER HEADS HEREFORD GROUP

Members of the Colorado Hereford Association, holding their annual meeting in Denver January 16, elected as the association president for the year Stafford C. Painter, of the Painter Hereford Company, Roggen, Colorado. He succeeded Harold Fulscher, of Fulscher Herefords, Granby, Colorado. Other officers elected were: vice-president, Alfred M. Collins, of the Baca Grant, Crestone, Colorado, and secretary treasurer, Kermit Karst, Denver.

MONTANA COUNTY GROUP MEETS

A hundred stockmen from Wheeler and Gilliam counties, Oregon, attended the seventh annual convention of the Wheeler-Gilliam Stock Growers' Association convention at Condon, January 10-11. Elected as president was George E. Webb, Mayville, succeeding Erie Laughlin, Mitchell; vice-president, Kenneth Rettie, Fossil; secretary-treasurer, Arnold C. Ebert, Fossil. The stockmen recommended that the legislature provide an extra \$40,000 for work in predatory animal control.

CALENDAR

MARCH—

- 5-7—Kansas Livestock Convention, Wichita.
- 10—Northwest Nebraska Breeders' Ass'n Sale, Valentine.
- 11—Crawford Hereford Breeders' Annual Spring Sale, Crawford, Neb.
- 18-20—Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers' Ass'n Convention, San Antonio.
- 23-25—New Mexico Cattle Growers' Ass'n Convention, Albuquerque.
- 26-27—Nebraska Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Sale and Show, Columbus.

APRIL—

- 1—Western Nebraska Hereford Ass'n Auction, Alliance.
- 4-5—Utah Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n Convention, Salt Lake City.

MAY—

- 14-16—Idaho State Cattle and Horse Growers' Ass'n Convention, Idaho Falls.
- 15-17—Oregon Cattle and Horse Raisers' Ass'n Convention, Ontario.
- 19-20—North Dakota Stockmen's Ass'n Convention, Mandan.
- 22-24—Montana Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Great Falls.
- 23-24—Washington Cattlemen's Ass'n Convention, Davenport

JUNE—

- 3-5—Wyoming Stock Growers' Ass'n Convention, Worland.
- 9-11—South Dakota Stock Growers' Ass'n, Rapid City.
- 12-14—Nebraska Stock Growers' Ass'n, Ogallala.
- 19-21—Colorado Stock Growers' and Feeders' Ass'n, Alamosa.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

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F. E. MOLLIN.....*Managing Editor*
DAVID O. APPLETON.....*Editor*
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MEAT PRODUCTION IN U. S.

IN RECENT MONTHS THERE HAVE been many magazine articles written by people without knowledge of the livestock industry urging the importation of South American meat for a variety of reasons: righting fancied wrongs, buying good will, creating Pan-American solidarity, etc. The question of whether or not we have any use for this meat never enters the heads of these great, all-subject experts.

It might be well for them if, in idle moments after dashing off articles based on propaganda and not on information, they would pause and examine the domestic scene. They would discover that in 1940 we produced for the first time in the history of our country more than 18,000,000,000 pounds of meat—1,500,000,000 pounds more than we did in 1939; also that our per capita consumption of meat in 1940 was 140.6 pounds—the largest since 1925; that cattle numbers are still on the increase despite heavier marketings last year; and that it is expected an all-time peak in cattle numbers will be reached at the conclusion of the present upward trend—perhaps two or three years hence.

It would seem that the great army of meat producers in this country, helping to support as they do our ever growing tax structure, should come first in the thoughts of even such writers. Meat production is even today rather a perilous business. There is the constant fight against disease; markets are always unknown quantities until the price is actually pegged on the day of sale; drought is a constant fear, too often realized in the past decade.

We can appreciate the fact that the livestock producers of South America have an even greater hazard—the uncertainties of a foreign market—but there

was a day in the memory of the writer when we too exported beef and when feeders on many occasions took *appalling* losses. No one carried the torch for us then. No English writers spilled ink in great quantities dramatizing the plight of America's livestock producers.

Great as may be the need of South America today for an outlet for surplus beef, we cannot afford to supply it at the risk of ruining the millions of farmers, feeders, and producers who at long last have a reasonably good outlet for their product today. It will take more than a stroke of the pen to create a market for surpluses which we do not need. It will be to the interest of all American producers when the economy of the industry in South America is placed on a sound basis; but in the meantime we reject the idea that any consideration even in this emergency warrants an invasion of the United States home market as a short-sighted way to solve the problem.

FARM SUBSIDIES

THE CURRENT FARM PROGRAM offers concrete evidence that a subsidy once started, no matter for what purpose it was granted, is hard to stop. Originally it was assumed that the benefit payments were a stop-gap to help bring farm prices up somewhere near parity until the crop control program itself had had time to achieve its purpose of curtailing production and thereby raise prices, put the farmer back on a sound economic basis, and make further subsidies unnecessary.

That the crop control program has failed in its primary objective is beyond question; but, strange to say, to many that now seems relatively unimportant. "Just increase the subsidies and everything will be all right," although on an unsound footing.

There are fortunately, however, farm leaders coming to the front who insist that the basic program must be changed, a two-price system adopted, domestic and surplus quotas allocated, and a new effort made to find a sound economy for the farmer. At the same time, Secretary Wickard is stressing the need to make every effort to increase domestic consumption of surplus crops, foreign markets, for the present at least, being entirely undependable.

This suggestion of more emphasis on distribution takes one back to the early days of the AAA. George Peek, the first administrator of the act, insisted on stressing distribution as the base of any sound farm program, as against the plan of crop control advocated by others in the department. Crop control won then but lost in the final analysis because it has not worked.

It must be admitted that it is partly the farmers' fault that it has not worked, but it was inevitable that this would be the case. Restricting acreage puts it up to the farmer to produce as much as possible on the reduced area, and the record

shows that he has been remarkably successful—so much so that crop control has existed practically in name only.

Doubtless there will be weeks of wrangling before new legislation is enacted. Eventually it would seem that the farmer must receive in the domestic market a fair price, consistent with general American standards in labor and industry, for such portion of his crop as the domestic market will consume.

THE NEW LIVESTOCK REPORT

THE LIVESTOCK REPORT JUST issued by the Department of Agriculture shows total cattle numbers as of January 1, 1941, of 71,666,000 head, an increase of 2,865,000 head for the past year.

In another editorial reference is made to the big increase in meat production during the year 1940. While total production this year—1941—will be smaller, a still further increase in beef is expected.

This situation directs our thoughts to the fact that, unless an unforeseen factor develops, it will take two or three years yet for cattle numbers to reach the crest of the present upward trend, and that when we reach that point we very likely will have in the neighborhood of 75,000,000 cattle, which figure, if and when reached, will set an all-time high for this country.

In connection with this situation we should remember that we produce more beef and veal per animal unit on hand today than we did fifteen or twenty years ago. This is due to the fact that we are largely on a cow and calf basis, to the development of quick maturing types, and to improved methods of fattening.

It all sums up to the fact that some of these days we are going to be rolling a lot of beef to market. Doubtless the demand will be good for the duration of the defense program. Perhaps it can be maintained artificially for a while thereafter. We should remember, however, that in the past only drought or lower prices have served to halt expansion as the production cycle swings upward, and very likely history will again repeat itself in this instance.

Is there anything the industry can do to adjust itself and meet this problem intelligently? There is only one way to do it: Market heavily while prices are good; decrease rather than increase the number of heifers held back for replacement purposes. Cattle converted into "money in the bank" at the present level of prices will look awfully good some of these days. If all would follow that practice and stop any danger of further price increase it would very much lessen the troubles which may confront us a few years hence. The AAA has a part to play in the matter. A few weeks ago Secretary Wickard urged increased cattle marketing. He should see to it that sufficient corn is made available through release of government sealed corn to feed

them, and that the corn price is not pegged too high next year.

A little teamwork all along the line would help lessen the burdensome corn surplus at the very time invoking a quota on marketing allotments is under consideration, increase the supply of meat to meet the increased demand therefor, and, most important, hedge against some of the troubles that seem to loom up for the years ahead.

SHEP

It ain't hard to know the reason you
don't like some dogs a lot,
For there's funny things can happen,
and they ain't so soon forgot.

There's one name among the canines
that you give an awful rep;
It was different dogs that bit you, but
the names of both was Shep.

One night you went a visitin', and when
you neared the house
You snuck up fer to have a look, as
quiet as a mouse.
You had jest got interested in what you
could see and hear,
When Old Shep come up behind you and
he grabbed you from the rear.

And then he started in to bark; that dog
he shore was cross;
You lit out fast as you could go, to git
up on yore hoss.
There was a mean four-wire fence, that
you was forced to climb;
When you got caught and tore yore
pants, he bit the second time.

Another time a crowd of folks was at
the gen'l store;
You was the victim of a joke that made
'em shout and roar.
The wind had took yore hat off, and it
started rollin' 'round;
You leaned down at a gallop fer to grab
it off the ground.

You had rode at "Rooster pullin's," but
furgot to watch yore step;
Out from onderneath a wagon, jumped
a yaller dog named Shep.
He shore did grab a vicious hold; you
bet he made it hurt.
Yore hoss he plunged, and how you
rolled and tumbled in the dirt.

But now yore wife and children, they
all like a dog around;
It may be a kiwi mongrel, or a bird dog
or a hound.
You didn't care what kind it was, but
any dog they kep,
Stayed there with one onderstandin'—
they must never call him Shep.

BRUCE KISKADDON.

**WESTERN
UNION** *Everywhere*

WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON GLIMPSES

By F. E. MOLLIN

THE LEASE-LEND BILL (H.R. 1776)

Occupies the spotlight, and little progress is being made on other legislation, except on the inevitable appropriation bills. Even after the lease-lend bill is out of the way, emergency legislation connected with the defense program will still get the call. Major bills dealing with other matters will be considered in due course. Those of lesser importance likely will have tough sledding.

Lease-Lend Bill.—The House passed the lease-lend bill by a vote of 260 to 165 on February 8. It is not expected that Senate debate will consume more than a month. Senate hearings were concluded on February 11 with the testimony of Wendell Willkie, just back from England.

The final House draft includes several amendments, the most important of which is that introduced by Congressman Dickson (Illinois) which provides that by concurrent resolution of both houses any or all of the powers delegated to the President in the bill may be repealed. A concurrent resolution requires only a simple majority for passage and does not need the President's signature.

The other House amendments—

Prohibits use of Navy for convoying foreign ships.

Requires President to report to Congress at frequent intervals—ninety days or less.

Prohibits disposal of armaments by President without consulting Army staff chief or naval operations head.

Limits powers of President to June 30, 1943.

Fixes limitation three years beyond the expiration of the act—June 30, 1943—on future commitments and contracts which may be entered into by the President under the provisions of the proposed law.

Declares nothing in the bill is to be construed as authorizing the use of American merchant ships to carry goods into the war zones in violation of the Neutrality Act.

Limits to \$1,300,000,000 the amount of Army and Navy material that can be turned over to Great Britain from now until the end of the fiscal year on June 30. An amendment by Representative Wadsworth (New York) placing a \$7,000,000,000 limit on total expenditures under the bill was rejected.

New Debt Limit.—The House voted to increase debt limit to \$65,000,000,000. Some idea of the real size of this amount may be had when it is realized that it is almost twice the amount of the total value of all farm property and all buildings thereon, as indicated by the 1940 census figures just released.

Export License Requirement Extended.—Calf and kip skins have just been added to the list of commodities on which licenses must be secured for export shipment.

Argentine Delegate "Home with the Bacon."—We have heard a great deal about importation of Argentine meat into this country. Dr. Prebisch, head of the Argentine Financial Commission, which has been in this country for several weeks, has just turned the tables. In preparing to leave for home he announced that his commission had negotiated a \$110,000,000 credit here. Guess that amounts to "taking home the bacon."

New Cargo Boats.—A measure calling for appropriation of \$315,000,000 for construction of 200 new cargo ships has been sent to the White House.

Wool Import Peak Seen.—The Treasury Department has asked Congress for appropriation to cover employment of a dozen additional employees for wool sampling in the next fiscal year. A record volume of imports is anticipated, according to the news item reporting the request.

House Revives Dies Committee.—By a vote of 353 to 6 the House extended the life of the Dies Committee until April 1, 1942. Accompanying the action was an appropriation of \$150,000 to pay the expenses of the prolonged investigation.

Post-War Works Program Already Considered.—President Roosevelt indicated at a recent press conference that he probably would ask Congress during the present session for authorization for a great post-war public works program.

Farm Legislation.—There is nothing definite as to plans for new farm legislation, but many rumors are afloat. One recent report, supposedly at least semi-official, indicates that accumulating surpluses of many major crops will make it necessary to impose much more rigid production controls. It is suggested that marketing quotas may be invoked on wheat and corn, possible only by a two-thirds vote of those involved—in other words, a continuation and extension of the crop control program backed by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

Even more recently, however, comes an equally well authenticated report that drastic changes in the program are being considered by department officials. This would involve adoption of a two-price system based on domestic marketing and surplus quotas. Both the Farmers' Union and the National Grange have sponsored proposals along this line. Their plan seems to be in the ascendancy at the moment. Apparently there are two schools of thought in the department itself as well as in the major farm groups.

In the meantime, Chester C. Davis, agriculture's representative on the ad-

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visory commission to the Council for National Defense, issues a warning lest economic "squeezing" of the farmer results during the development of the defense program.

One-Sided Reciprocal Trade.—Secretary Hull's recent statement at a press conference giving tacit approval of the River Plate tariff agreement, whereby Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay extend certain concessions to Bolivia and Paraguay only, marks a departure from our broad reciprocal trade policy, too idealistic in design to withstand the assault of realistic world conditions.

New Cotton Plan.—A plan designed to curtail cotton growing even beyond the year's production goal has been offered to cotton farmers. Under the plan, the Department of Agriculture announces, cotton growers in exchange for reducing cotton acreage will receive stamps redeemable at retail stores for cotton goods. Disappearing export markets for cotton is given as justification for the new plan, which the department hopes will increase employment in cotton mills and allow cotton farmers to plant more garden and feed crops.

Reorganization Powers.—The President's reorganization powers granted by Congress in 1939 expired in January, 1941.

The Appropriation Committees.—Business as usual.

CATTLE COUNT HEADING FOR NEW HIGH RECORD

THE NUMBER OF CATTLE ON January 1 reached 71,666,000 head, which was 2,865,000 head, or about 4 per cent larger than a year earlier, and 4,625,000 head, or about 7 per cent above the ten-year (1930-39) average, according to the Agricultural Marketing Service. Of the increase of 2,865,000 head, 777,000 head was in milk cows and young milk stock and 2,088,000 head in cattle kept principally for beef. While numbers were up in nearly all states, the largest increases were in the west north central states. The average value per head of \$43.42 was \$2.82 higher than a year earlier and the total value of \$3,111,925,000 was up \$318,459,000.

The number of milk cows (cows and heifers two years old and over kept for milk) of 25,917,000 head was up about 2 per cent. The number of yearling heifers being kept for milk cows of 5,545,000 head was up 2 per cent and the number of heifer calves being kept for milk cows of 5,929,000 head was up nearly 3 per cent. Value per head of milk cows was \$60.86 compared with \$57.24 a year earlier.

The upswing in total livestock numbers that started in 1938 tended to level off during 1940, and on January 1 the number of animal units on farms was only a little larger than a year earlier. During 1940 cattle and sheep showed

substantial increases, hogs a rather sharp decrease, and both horses and mules small decreases. Chickens declined moderately and turkeys sharply.

When the numbers of these species, excluding poultry, are converted to an animal unit basis, which allows for differences in size and feed requirements of the several species, an increase of a little less than 1 per cent is shown. Because of a sharp decline in the number of hogs, the composite grain consuming animal units decreased about 4 per cent. The composite number expressed in terms of hay and pasture animal units, which omits hogs entirely, increased about 2.5 per cent.

As is usually the case, hog numbers showed the largest relative change during the year—a decrease of 12 per cent. This drop was a result both of a decrease in the number of pigs raised in 1940 and of heavy marketings of these pigs before January 1, 1941. Because of the low prices of hogs prevailing during 1940 and the low ratio of hog prices to corn prices, the 1940 spring pig crop was reduced about 9 per cent and the fall pig crop about 13 per cent. A record high number of hogs was slaughtered from October through December.

The upward movement of the cycle of cattle numbers continued during 1940 at an accelerated rate, with an increase of over 4 per cent. The number on January 1 has been exceeded only in three other years, and, if another increase during 1941 equal to that during 1940 should take place, the number on January 1, 1942, will establish a new high record.

Stock sheep on farms and ranches increased about 2 per cent during 1940 and the January 1 number established a new high record for over fifty years. Sheep and lambs on feed on January 1 increased over a year earlier and total of all sheep numbers was the highest for all years. Horses and mules continued to decline during 1940, with each down about 2 per cent.

The total inventory value of livestock on farms on January 1 of \$4,921,313,000 was 3 per cent larger than a year earlier and the largest since 1930. In the case of cattle and sheep, the numbers and values per head were up. With horses and mules, numbers and values per head were down. In contrast, hog numbers were down but value was up. (These inventory values of livestock on farms should not be confused with the value of livestock production or with income from livestock, estimates of which will be issued later in the year.)

Both chickens and turkeys on farms January 1 were fewer than a year earlier, chickens being down about 4 per cent and turkeys about 18 per cent. The value per bird in the case of chickens was up more than enough to offset the smaller numbers, with a resulting increase in total value, but the higher value per turkey was not enough to offset the decrease in numbers.

With both cattle and hogs, the changes

from last year were general over the whole country. Cattle numbers were up in all but ten states and down only in two, while hog numbers were down in all but two states. Milk cows were up in all but seven states. The number of stock sheep was up in sixteen states, unchanged in seventeen, and down in fifteen. Both chicken and turkey numbers were down in nearly all states. Horses and mules were down or unchanged in nearly all states.

The estimated number of horses, including colts, on farms January 1 was 10,364,000 head—a decrease of 238,000, or about 2 per cent. The number of colts under one year of age was smaller than a year earlier, indicating a further decline in the number of colts foaled. The value per head of \$68.21 was down \$9.15 from a year earlier and the total value of \$706,940,000 was down \$113,187,000.

The number of mules, estimated at 4,238,000 head, was about 2 per cent down. The number of mule colts under one year, however, was larger than a year earlier. The value per head of \$105.72 was down \$8.84 and the total value of \$448,062,000 was down \$45,591,000, or about 9 per cent.

The number of hogs on farms of 52,983,000 was down 7,224,000, or about 12 per cent from a year earlier. This number was about 4 per cent larger than the 1930-39 average, but this period included the low numbers of the severe drought period. Average value per head was \$8.31 compared with \$7.81 a year earlier, but the total value of \$440,073,000 was \$30,000,000 smaller.

The number of stock sheep of 49,656,000 head was up 963,000 head, or about 2 per cent. This number, combined with an estimated number of sheep and lambs on feed of 6,224,000, which was up 368,000 from a year earlier, gives a total of all sheep of 55,880,000 head. Most of the increase in stock sheep was in the west north central states and Texas, with the numbers in the eleven western states unchanged. The average value per head of all sheep was \$6.72 compared with \$6.30 a year earlier, and the total value of \$375,631,000 was up \$31,806,000.

STOCKMEN CONFER ON MEAT NEED IN DEFENSE

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE American National Live Stock Association conferring in Washington with Consumer Commissioner Harriett Elliott of the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense presented a number of facts to indicate the high production capacity of the industry in preparing to do its full share for the defense program by supplying the meat needed for the Army, Navy, and civilians.

It was pointed out—

That total meat production in 1940 of 18,802,000,000 pounds was an in-

crease of about 1,500,000,000 pounds over 1939 and a record production.

That cold storage holdings of fresh and cured meats increased to a total of 952,538,000 pounds on February 1, 1941, which was 177,270,000 pounds over last year's storage and 189,258,000 pounds over the five-year average figure.

That per capita consumption of meat in 1940 of 140.6 pounds was the largest since 1925.

That cattle production is expanding, figures showing 71,666,000 cattle in the country, compared with 66,083,000 head two years ago when the present uptrend in cattle numbers started.

That with improved and more quickly maturing types of cattle and better production methods more beef is being produced per animal unit than ever before.

That estimates indicate that in 1941 beef marketings will be increased 200,000,000 to 300,000,000 pounds.

That purchasing power is strong.

That retail price of all cuts of good grade steer beef was 29.8 cents in 1935; 28.7 cents in 1936; 32.7 cents in 1937; 28.8 cents in 1938; 29.7 cents in 1939; and 29.6 in 1940.

Secretary Mollin pointed out that changes in non-agricultural income have a major influence on retail meat prices and generally precede them. "In the final analysis, increased purchasing power due to wage advances and increased employment is immediately reflected in increased retail prices."

The American National representatives were President J. Elmer Brock; the association Legislative Committeemen F. S. Boice (Arizona), A. D. Brownfield (New Mexico), W. B. Wright (Nevada), J. H. Nason (South Dakota), and George Jones (Texas); and Secretary F. E. Mollin.

AAA ANNOUNCES PROGRAM FOR USE OF SPUDS AS FEED

A PROGRAM FOR THE DIVERSION into livestock feed of up to 12,500,000 bushels of 1940 crop Irish potatoes in eight western states has been announced by the Surplus Marketing Administration of the Department of Agriculture. The program, which will "bolster the weak and declining market," provides for payment to eligible growers of 25 cents per cwt. for potatoes of Grade No. 2 or better.

Growers eligible to participate in the program are those in designated commercial potato-producing districts of eight western states who co-operated in the 1940 AAA potato program.

Total 1940 production of Irish potatoes in the United States, amounting to nearly 398,000,000 bushels, was approximately 31,000,000 bushels in excess of average annual production for the ten-year period 1929-38 and about 35,000,000 bushels heavier than the 1939 crop. Stocks of potatoes on hand on January 1 were above normal requirements.

MARKETS

LIVESTOCK PRICES GET ROUGH TREATMENT

By H. W. FRENCH

BUYERS TOOK THE CATTLE MARKET in hand and treated prices roughly during the past month. The first real serious break in values in some time was recorded and the market went down with as much ease as it went up during the preceding month. It must be remembered that the cattle trade had long enjoyed a period of upturns and the current decline apparently was long overdue. Many in the trade were surprised that the break did not come sooner. Inasmuch as prices broke so sharply, it is reasonable to assume that there will be a turn for the better, despite still relatively high prices, because industrial conditions are vastly better than a year ago.

Fluctuations hit the hog and lamb markets as well, although hogs bounced around much more than lambs. It appears as though the dressed meat trade was responsible for the general bearish trend on live animals, as the consumers suddenly became aware that retail meat prices had climbed beyond their means and did something about it, sharply reducing their buying for the time being. When the dressed trade became sluggish it was only natural for the slaughter concerns to slow down their support of the live market.

Exports of beef and veal for 1940 were reported at 16,653,863 pounds, as compared with 15,162,743 pounds in 1939. Total pork exports at 93,833,812 pounds showed a decrease of 35,709,160 pounds from 1939, although the combined item of frozen and fresh pork at 39,809,899 pounds was several million pounds above the previous year, making it plain that the total decrease for pork was confined entirely to other kinds of pork.

Cattle and beef imports into the United States in 1940 declined 20 per cent compared with 1939 and represented only 6.3 per cent of federally inspected slaughter against 8.2 per cent a year earlier, on a dressed weight basis, according to the Department of Agriculture. Imports of dutiable live cattle of all weights exclusive of a small number of dairy cattle totaled 621,000 head in 1940—a decrease of 17 per cent compared with 1939. Fifty-six per cent of the number consisted of feeder cattle from 200 to 699 pounds, paying the regular duty of 2.5 cents per pound. Imports of those from 700 pounds up, not counting dairy cattle, showed 26 per cent decrease.



THE percentage of good-to-prime beef steers at Chicago first week of February was much larger than a year ago but hardly so large as a short time back. During that week choice and prime steers averaged \$13.67 against \$10.81 a year ago, while common steers at \$8.46 compared with \$7.32 last year. Average price for all grades figured \$11.44 and \$9.08, respectively.

Naturally, with the trend on beef steers downward for four weeks, the adjectives lifeless, sluggish, semi-demoralized, dull, and the like crept into the market reports regularly as contrasted with opposite terms of expression late in 1940 when the market was supported in the face of rising prices. At mid-February beef steers at Chicago were considered 50 cents to \$1 below a month earlier, although common and medium grades which were comparatively scarce escaped with less decline. Fed heifers, which continued numerous, especially those fed 100 to 120 days, suffered 50 to 75 cents setback. Cows fluctuated sharply but good grades finished around steady, by reason of their scarcity, whereas others were largely 25 to 50 cents off, canners and cutters sharing in this decline. Vealers were not very plentiful and held strong most of the time. Bulls were in good demand but closed steady to slightly lower.

Prime medium-weight fed steers reached \$16 late in January, and some of these had been on feed in Iowa for fourteen months. There were no finished steers above \$15.75 the first half of February and not many were reported from \$15 up, but some light yearlings scored \$15.10. Taking the month as a whole, sales were mainly from \$14 down, although some Colorados landed as high as \$14.50 and some from that state averaging 1,590 pounds scored \$13.50. It was the best market on offerings obtainable from \$12 down. Steers at the recent high time selling at \$13 to \$14 were obtainable the first week of February at \$11.50 to \$13 and the following week were to be had at less money. Any number of medium-to-good steers were secured at \$10 to \$11 and short-fed medium offerings most frequently landed downward from \$9.75.

Two loads of prime 1,057- to 1,089-pound Nebraska fed heifers topped at \$13, but no lightweights passed \$11.50, as the big weights carried the highest finish. It is doubtful, however, if buyers would have paid \$12.50 or better for the little cattle had highly finished kinds been available. The big end of the heifer crop was cleared around \$9 to \$11 and the medium-to-good heavyweights were the hardest to sell. Most of the beef cows sold at \$6.50 to \$7.75, although some good-to-choice lots were reported at \$8.50 to \$9 and above. Canners and cutters were most numerous at \$4.50 to \$5.85. Most

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER

of the heavy sausage bulls were obtained at \$7.50 to \$7.85 but some at one time scored \$8 and above, while lightweights were obtainable downward from \$7.25. The \$14 vealer was prominently on display, as strictly choice kinds were so scarce that shippers lost no time in picking up that kind around that figure.

Some prime 1,102- to 1,190-pound fed steers at Omaha sold up to \$15.75 at Omaha where a few other well-finished offerings also made \$14.50 to \$14.75. Sales at other Missouri River markets were rare at \$13.25 and above, although some reached \$14.35 at Sioux City. Best heifers on the "River" showed up at Kansas City and scored \$12.10 and these came from Colorado. That market reported mixed yearling steers and heifers as high as \$12.40. Most of the heifers at Missouri River markets made \$9.25 to \$10.50, with medium grades at \$8 to \$8.50, and cows in the main cleared at \$6 to \$7.25, although some were noted at \$7.75 to \$8.50.

Receipts have not been heavy; yet sellers could not keep prices from dropping, and with the Lenten season starting on February 26 it may mean that the buying side will continue in control should supplies hold to normal volume until Easter.

STOCKER and feeder classes were not liberal at Chicago or at other markets, but the bearish undertone for slaughter classes had a weakening influence on offerings suitable for country purposes. Feeders were not in the mood to continue paying seemingly high prices for thin cattle when the fat-cattle market is going down with regularity. At mid-February stocker and feeder prices at Chicago averaged around 25 cents lower than a month earlier and some steers were off at least 50 cents. Somewhat similar declines were reported at many of the other markets; yet at markets receiving light supplies of stockers the demand continued broad at prevailing prices. The spring grazing season is almost at hand and for that reason most buyers were after the thin light and young offerings, although some finishers still were in the market for two-way steers already fat and carrying plenty of weight, these cattle to be carried for a short finish.

Most of the medium native stock steers at Chicago went out at \$8.50 to \$9.50, although half-fat steers were reported at \$10.25 to \$11.25 and graded good or better, some 961-pound North Dakotas landing at \$11.10 and other fleshy steers going to Iowa interests at \$11.35. Some good-to-choice Canadian feeder steers at St. Paul were reported at \$10 to \$10.50. Medium-to-good stock steers at Denver cleared at \$8.50 to \$10.50 and some choice loads made \$11 to \$11.25 while fleshy heavy feeders sold at \$11.25 to \$11.75 and steer calves topped at \$13.

Kansas City reported good-to-choice stocker and feeder steers at \$10 to \$11, with a few choice loads at \$11.50 to \$12

and medium-to-good offerings at \$8.75 to \$9.50. Good kinds at Omaha made \$9.75 to \$10.75, with some yearlings at \$11.50 and heavy feeders for short finishing at \$11.90 to \$12.25. Best light yearlings at Sioux City scored \$11.85. Medium-to-choice heifers at most points made \$7.50 to \$9.25, with best at \$10. Stock cows were most numerous at \$5.50 to \$7 but some at Denver on a per head basis figured above \$7.50 per cwt. Steer calves were taken generally from \$12 down but choice kinds reached \$13.25 at Omaha.

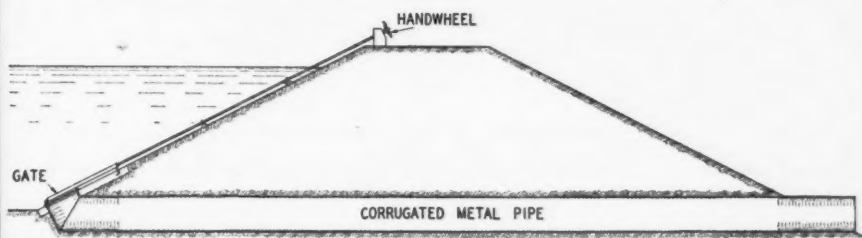
JANUARY 15 the top on hogs at Chicago on a 50- to 75-cent higher market rose to \$9 for a new high. Since then the market was erratic and generally lower

although there were short reactions. At mid-February prices for good-to-choice 180- to 240-pound butchers looked mostly 35 to 50 cents lower than a month earlier, while 240- to 360-pound arrivals were largely around 25 cents off as contrasted with a decline measuring 75 cents to \$1.25 on weights from 160 pounds down. Best butchers the first half of February scored \$8.30 against \$8 on the month's low day and \$8.20 at mid-month. Most of the 180- to 240-pound good-to-choice butchers were secured at \$7.90 to \$8.20 and heavier weights largely at \$7.50 to \$8. Good-to-choice packing sows made \$7 to \$7.35.

A study of the preceding paragraph would result in the opinion that the mar-

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ket became top-heavy and for the time being is not very bullish. Still there are many in the trade who believe that there is nothing in the picture to indicate a decidedly bearish trend, so that they are predicting another upward swing. For this to happen, pork loins and other cuts must work upward to stimulate the buying of live hogs, because recently dressed pork prices were shoved down rudely.

A surprise to many was the hog slaughter under federal inspection during January. This slaughter at 4,517,314 fell 838,479 below that of January, 1940. The corn-hog ratio became more favorable recently. On February 1 the average price for all hogs at Chicago was \$7.85 against \$5.23 a year ago, while No. 3 yellow corn at Chicago at that time was 63 cents and 57.3 cents, respectively.

Private estimates on the consumption of lard in 1940 placed the amount at 1,172,411,000 pounds compared with 932,182,000 pounds in 1939, and the same authority estimated the per capita consumption at 9.12 pounds in 1940 and 7.17 pounds in 1939. The all-time peak of 305,714,000 pounds in cold storage on July 1, 1940, has been reduced slightly, but the February 1, 1941, holdings at 300,506,000 pounds were heavier than a month earlier.

Hog producers have lost export markets for 75,000,000 pounds of pork and 140,000,000 pounds of lard. The war has shut off continental European markets.

Canada, by sharply increased production, has been able to supply the British needs for pork. Purchases of American lard by Great Britain are only about one-fourth as large as during normal peace times. The 1940-41 exports of pork are expected to be about 50,000,000 pounds and of lard to be around 180,000,000 pounds.

MARKETS receiving lambs from the wheat field pastures have reported increased receipts, while those which have been depending upon offerings from the feed-lots almost exclusively are falling much behind a year ago. This decrease is reduced somewhat at some markets where natives are coming in rather good volume. Prices have fluctuated to some extent but the \$10 lamb remains in circulation despite bearish tactics of the buying side of the trade, which complains of poor dressed lamb markets.

Too many lambs are coming to market averaging above 100 pounds and many lots have passed 105 pounds. This naturally makes the lamb under 100 pounds, grade for grade, sell higher and more readily than the bigger animals. Because many of the heavy lambs show high finish, buyers still continue to buy them although their needs are greater for strictly choice 90- to 95-pound offerings. This increase in weight is due in part to the fact that feed-lot lambs have been held back longer than usual so that there would be less interference from the lambs out of the wheat fields.

Mid-February prices for lambs and ewes showed little change from a month earlier at Chicago, but values at that time were 25 to 40 cents higher for lambs as compared with the start of February when ewes were selling higher than at present. Further advances are needed if the country owners are to derive any profit from their operations, as first costs were relatively high. Open weather, however, has been of some benefit to them, as gains were less costly than many other years.

It is estimated that around 900,000 lambs were still in the feed-lots of northern Colorado, Arkansas Valley, and the Scottsbluff areas at the middle of February and this is approximately 100,000 head less than a year earlier. If the movement out of these feed-lots was at a normal pace, the supply for the immediate future would not be very large because this season the feeding operations in such areas was much below that of recent years.

Choice light dressed lambs at New York at mid-February sold as high as \$20 and this price also was paid at Boston, but similar offerings at Chicago were reported at \$18. Dressed lamb of choice grade from 50 to 60 pounds sold 2 to 3 cents per pound less than comparable 30- to 40-pound kinds. This only reflects the condition in the market for live lambs where there is discrimination against weight.

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hoof at Chicago in mid-month sold at \$10.25 to \$10.50, but some 97-pound offerings topped at \$10.75 which two weeks earlier would not have passed \$10.35. Some lambs averaging up to 108 pounds reached \$10.35. Good-to-choice summer shorn offerings made \$10 to \$10.25 and fall clippers landed at \$9.50 to \$9.65, while fresh clips made \$8.50 to \$8.75. Good woolled yearling wethers were taken at \$9 but choice are worth around \$9.50. Good-to-choice fed western ewes sold at \$5.75 to \$6.

The market for shearing lambs was inclined to favor a weaker level but demand continued fairly broad for the moderate supply available. More offerings suitable for country needs were available at Missouri River markets than at Chicago and a moderate amount of country business was possible at Denver. Shearing lambs in the main at most markets went at \$9.75 to \$10 but some were reported at \$10.15 to \$10.30. Good-to-choice feeding lambs bulked at \$9.25 to \$10 and some carlots at Denver reached \$10.25. Bred ewes at Omaha landed at \$4.50 to \$6.25, the good grade kind generally selling at \$5.40 and above.

WOOL POSITION STRONG; HIDES INDIFFERENT

By H. W. FRENCH

MILL CONSUMPTION OF WOOL IN the United States is expected to continue on a high level in 1941 and will be accompanied by large imports the remainder of the winter and during the coming spring. Although the rapid increase in consumption since June has reflected largely the manufacture of wool for army orders, there was also a substantial increase in mill orders for cloth for civilian use. Production of woollen goods for civilians in 1940 was down from the previous year but mill consumption for civilian use is likely to show an increase in 1941.

The supply of wool in all positions in the United States on December 1, 1940, was estimated at 285,000,000 pounds, grease basis. Monthly mill consumption since last July has averaged about 66,000,000 pounds and in November exceeded 75,000,000 pounds. Foreign wools are arriving in large quantity to supplement the domestic supply, but with a high rate of consumption in prospect for the first quarter of 1941, the carryover of apparel wool into the 1941 season is likely to be relatively small. The carryover on April 1, 1940, at 180,000,000 pounds, grease basis, was the smallest in recent years.

Increased mill consumption in 1941 will be a strong supporting factor in domestic wool prices. The effect of prices for foreign wools will be felt, since much wool is being imported into the United States. Wool produced in Australia, New Zealand, and the Union of South Africa is under the control of the British government, and the prices are fixed by

that government, maintaining relatively high prices for wool released for export to other countries. Nevertheless, spring and summer prices in the United States are expected to average above those of a year earlier.

Wool prices have advanced considerably since last spring and even the maintenance of current levels would mean higher figures for the 1941 domestic clip. Territory wool at Boston at the start of February stood 5 to 9½ cents above a year ago, on a scoured basis. Advances from present levels probably will be more moderate, despite prospects of a strong demand. Prior to the start of the war, the countries of continental Europe imported about half of the wool entering international trade. Since last May the blockade has practically cut off these shipments. This leaves the United States, Great Britain, and Japan as the only important markets for wool exports from the Southern Hemisphere.

Reports show that the weekly average mill consumption of apparel wool, scoured basis, was 8,455,000 pounds during November, 1940, or 8 per cent higher

than October and a new record. The eleven months' total was 2 per cent above 1939 and with the exception of 1935 stood the greatest since 1923. The January-to-November consumption, on a grease basis, however, was hardly up to that of a year earlier because of the large consumption of foreign wools which are light shrinking. Government orders accounted for 25 per cent of the cloth sold by mills for the six-month period, June to November, as compared with 2 per cent in a like time of 1939.

Stocks of apparel wool at the end of 1940 totaled 140,628,000 pounds, or about 13,000,000 pounds above three months earlier and 31,000,000 pounds greater than a year ago. Carpet wool stocks of 39,933,000 pounds were approximately 2,000,000 pounds above a year ago. Top stocks of 29,519,000 pounds appeared 5,000,000 pounds below the previous year.

Wool buyers have been active in many sections of the intermountain area, with contracting at a more rapid pace than a year ago. Prices have been reported within a 30- to 37-cent range, grease basis, or about in line with values preva-

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lent in December but somewhat higher than noted last spring. Good volume was noted in Montana, with some sales up to 35½ cents. Not much early contracting was reported for New Mexico and Colorado. Information indicates contracts in the West are on a 95 cents to \$1 scoured basis, delivered Boston.

Woolen goods manufacturers have resorted to a self-imposed priority system to insure delivery of government orders on schedule. Textile experts estimated that about half of the wool mill machinery was needed for defense orders, and capacity operations are certain in 1941 unless the international situation changes unexpectedly. Some makers of civilian clothes in anticipation of a greater demand because of increased income of workers are attempting to place liberal orders for fall delivery.

Most business in the wool market at Boston the second week of February was on the finer grades of South American wool and on wools from Australia and South Africa. Medium-to-low grade South American wools were not very active. Fairly heavy arrivals of foreign apparel wools were reported at the port of Boston. Occasional sales of small quantities of domestic wools for imme-

diated use were consummated but otherwise there was little activity.

Inquiry was limited for fleece wools of fine combing delaine type and buyers were not interested at 42 to 44 cents, in the grease, while most dealers would not give consideration to bids of 40 to 42 cents for average shrinking wools. Country packed lots of three-eighths and quarter blood bright fleeces were offered at 41 to 42 cents, delivered East. Graded three-eighths and quarter blood found a limited outlet at 43 to 45 cents. There was some demand for country packed lots of three-eighths and quarter blood semi-bright fleeces at 39 to 40 cents.

Some original bag fine territory wools were sold at 95 to 98 cents, scoured basis, for wool running bulk average French combing, and at 98 cents to \$1.02 for some running mostly good French combing length. Graded three-eighths blood combing made 84 to 87 cents occasionally. Spot twelve months' Texas wool was scarce, with sales mostly \$1 to \$1.05 for average length in original bag lots. Some demand centered on scoured fall Texas wools at a firm level.

DECLINING prices were registered for hides during February and the market

lacked support. It was a surprisingly different situation with which sellers had to contend and at the present time the outlook is not very bright. Holdings are reported about normal for this season of the year, yet buyers are anything but bullish. Should any improvement happen in the near future, it is expected to be gradual and not very extensive. Mid-February prices for hides were unevenly lower with the market around 50 cents to \$2 below a month earlier, most quotations showing \$1 to \$1.50 loss. Credits for recent take-offs have declined about \$2. Sheep pelts fared better, as fluctuations were limited and prevailing values are little different from a month earlier.

Quotations at New York on February 15 were as follows: native steers, 11½ to 12 cents; Colorado, 11 to 11½ cents; light native cows, 11½ to 12½ cents; branded cows, 11½ to 12½ cents; butt brands, 11½ to 12 cents.

A BRIEF REPORT FROM ST. LOUIS TERRITORY

By DAVID I. DAY

I DID NOT THINK I WOULD BE able to file a report from the Corn Belt this month, having a great many purebred sales to attend which would have little interest for readers in the West and Southwest.

A special mission, however, took me to see some cattle feeders—old friends—south of Toulon, Illinois, after which I revisited Galesburg and then went south to friendly old Jacksonville in Morgan County. Around Toulon, in Stark County, more cattle are on feed this winter than for some time, it seemed to me. Herefords are somewhat the predominant kind and practically all are westerns.

I talked to farmers there who buy cattle regularly from the big central markets. Others get feed-lot replacements at community auctions. Still others patronize the cattle companies at Henry, Galesburg, and Princeton. Quite a large percentage of these cattle are marketed in Chicago, but Peoria is cutting in on this arrangement. It is a better cattle market than it has been in past years.

Crops in this part of Illinois were all shorter in 1940 than usual. However, there is no particular shortage of grain or hay. Not so many silos operate as should be; not so many paved lots, either. A few farmers are using legume silage, and it is fine for western feeders or for anything else on a farm needing a succulent winter roughage.

The same situation prevailed all down the way to Jacksonville. Farmers and feeders are much more optimistic than they were last winter and spring. I think the country around Jacksonville and farther east in Morgan County should be interesting territory for any western cattleman to visit and might be of special interest to older ranchmen because this is the old bailiwick of John T. Alexander, the greatest name possibly in

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You will want to see every one of these exceptional **HEREFORD** bulls on April 1. All the bulls are of good ages . . . good herd bull prospects.

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all the early history of the cattle industry west of the Alleghanies. A Virginian, reared in Ohio, Alexander started cattle buying in St. Louis, settled to farming near the village of Alexander, drove cattle overland to the Atlantic seaboard markets, was the first railroad cattle shipper to Buffalo and other eastern points, and became a millionaire. He was caught in the "Spanish fever" epidemic, and this disaster with other contributing circumstances almost wrecked his fortunes. In his heyday, he was big enough to buy a tract of 26,000 acres in Champaign county—as fine as you will find in Illinois. Alexander served as the first president of the old Live Stock Men's National Association, organized in Kansas City in 1873.

The writer was particularly interested in Alexander's old stamping ground, as a few years ago I wrote a series of articles on cattle trailing days in Indiana, when the Hoosiers drove great herds eastward, mostly to Baltimore and Boston. Old newspapers made frequent mention of Alexander's cattle being trailed through from Illinois. He had the honor of shipping the first cattle by railroad from Indiana. He drove from his farm to Logansport and by rail to Toledo, thence to Dunkirk by lake steamer, then to New York and Boston. He lost a little money on this experiment but kept up railroad shipping until in 1870, it is said, he shipped east a grand total of about 70,000 cattle. For a single individual, this should be something of a record yet.

On to St. Louis. I talked to farmers all directions from this metropolis on the Mississippi. They are in the mood to buy feeders of the better sort and fatten them well, looking to a period of prosperity wherein expensive cuts of beef will be in demand. The many thousands of men at work on defense projects making from \$10 to \$20 daily looks to beef feeders like happy days ahead—for a time at least.

I met an old gentleman named Phelps in the lobby of the Hotel Mayfair who was pleased to borrow my February copy of the AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER which he read without glasses, explaining that he had his "second eyesight." He was interested particularly in the report of the convention at Fort Worth and to note President Brock's postoffice address at Kaycee, Wyoming. It appears that the venerable gentleman served in the United States Army in his younger days, stationed at Buffalo, Wyoming, and knew about the "Johnson County War" centering around Kaycee.

It appeared that his outfit helped bring hostilities to a close. He knew all about the old KC, the TA, and other ranches in that part of the world. He also related many interesting occurrences connected with Indian disturbances. I wished to talk further with the old gentleman but, when I returned from an interview, he had departed and is probably wondering now about the fellow who was so interested in half-forgotten things in Wyoming in the early 1890's.

CHICAGO LIVESTOCK PRICES

	Feb. 17, 1941	Jan. 15, 1941	Feb. 15, 1940
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (1,100-1,500 lbs.)	\$13.25-15.25	\$14.25-15.25	\$10.00-11.50
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.00-13.25	11.75-14.25	8.75-10.50
Slaughter Steers—Ch. (900-1,100 lbs.)	13.25-14.75	14.00-15.25	10.75-11.75
Slaughter Steers—Good	11.00-13.25	11.75-14.00	8.75-10.50
Slaughter Steers—Med. (750-1,300 lbs.)	9.00-11.00	9.25-11.75	7.50- 9.00
Fed Young Steers—Gd.-Ch. (750-900 lbs.)	11.00-14.75	11.25-14.50	10.75-11.75
Heifers—Good-Choice	9.50-13.00	10.25-13.50	8.50-10.75
Cows—Good	7.50- 8.50	7.50- 8.50	6.25- 7.00
Vealers—Good-Choice	11.50-14.00	11.00-14.00	10.00-11.25
Calves—Good-Choice	8.50-10.00	8.00- 9.00	7.50- 8.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Gd.-Ch.	9.25-11.25		9.00- 9.50
Feeder and Stocker Steers—Com.-Med.	7.50- 9.25		6.50- 8.25
Hogs—Medium Weights (200-240 lbs.)	7.85- 8.10	8.75- 9.00	5.30- 5.65
Lambs—Good-Choice	10.65-10.85	10.65-10.85	9.15- 9.40
Yearling Wethers—Good-Choice	9.00- 9.50	8.75- 9.40	7.75- 8.50
Ewes—Good-Choice	5.50- 6.00	5.25- 6.00	4.10- 5.15

CHICAGO WHOLESALE DRESSED MEAT PRICES

	Feb. 14, 1941	Jan. 15, 1941	Feb. 15, 1940
FRESH BEEF AND VEAL—			
Steer—Choice (700 lbs. up)	\$19.00-21.00	\$20.00-22.00	\$14.00-16.00
Steer—Good	16.00-19.00	17.00-20.00	13.00-14.00
Steer—Choice (500-700 lbs.)	18.00-21.00	18.50-22.00	14.50-16.50
Steer—Good	15.50-19.00	16.50-20.00	13.00-15.00
Yearling Steer—Choice	18.00-20.00	18.50-21.00	15.00-16.50
Yearling Steer—Good	15.50-18.00	16.50-19.00	13.50-15.00
Cow—Commercial	13.50-14.50	13.50-14.50	11.00-12.00
Veal and Calf—Choice	18.50-19.50	19.00-20.00	14.50-16.00*
Veal and Calf—Good	15.50-18.50	16.00-19.00	13.00-14.50*
FRESH LAMB AND MUTTON—			
Lamb—Choice (all weights)	15.00-18.00	16.00-19.00	14.00-17.00†
Lamb—Good	14.00-17.00	15.00-18.00	13.00-16.00†
Ewe—Good	9.00-10.00		7.00- 8.00
Ewe—Commercial	8.00- 9.00	9.00-10.00	
FRESH PORK CUTS—			
Loin—8-12 lb. average	16.00-17.00	18.50-19.50	11.50-12.50

*Veal. †55 lbs. down.

HOLDINGS OF FROZEN AND CURED MEATS

	Feb. 1, 1941†	Jan. 1, 1941	Feb. 1, 1940	Five-Yr. Av.
Frozen Beef	89,143,000	88,233,000	64,023,000	75,486,000
Cured Beef*	19,494,000	18,757,000	14,550,000	19,801,000
Lamb and Mutton	4,689,000	5,119,000	4,412,000	4,789,000
Frozen Pork	378,981,000	313,632,000	258,432,000	221,016,000
Dry Salt Pork*	89,352,000	73,676,000	80,947,000	77,479,000
Pickled Pork*	272,775,000	268,861,000	249,222,000	270,227,000
Miscellaneous	98,104,000	101,764,000	103,682,000	94,482,000
Total Meats	952,538,000	870,042,000	775,268,000	763,280,000
Lard	300,506,000	278,009,000	202,175,000	138,390,000
Frozen Poultry	191,648,000	208,365,000	166,962,000	139,547,000
Creamery Butter	29,894,000	41,497,000	29,189,000	47,198,000
Eggs (case equivalent)	1,851,000	2,709,000	1,664,000	1,947,000

* Cured or in process of cure. † Subject to revision.

LIVESTOCK AT STOCK YARDS

	1941	January 1940	Five-Year Average 1936-40
RECEIPTS—			
Cattle*	1,135,659	1,104,403	1,169,795
Calves	464,641	460,259	497,335
Hogs	3,039,446	3,772,213	2,879,352
Sheep	1,721,439	1,728,380	1,871,252
TOTAL SHIPMENTS†—			
Cattle*	428,811	377,429	414,229
Calves	193,746	170,221	167,365
Hogs	880,840	1,007,244	815,440
Sheep	718,012	653,180	743,992
STOCKER AND FEEDER SHIPMENTS—			
Cattle*	194,067	149,546	164,907
Calves	72,056	50,500	40,652
Hogs	57,985	46,984	38,422
Sheep	148,344	118,913	107,071
SLAUGHTERED UNDER FEDERAL INSPECTION—			
Cattle*	891,329	827,348	
Calves	411,191	416,291	
Hogs	4,517,314	5,355,793	
Sheep	1,625,178	1,598,193	

*Exclusive of calves. †Includes stockers and feeders.

STATES ASK CONTINUATION OF FOOT-AND-MOUTH BAN

MEMORIALS ASKING THE PRESIDENT and Congress to refrain from any action that would modify the embargo importation of dressed meats and meat products from countries in which foot-and-mouth disease is prevalent have been adopted recently in many of the country's new legislatures.

Among the states which have already passed such memorials are Colorado, California, Arizona, Texas, Illinois, Wyoming, and North Dakota. Montana, Nebraska, and South Dakota legislatures have such resolutions pending. The memorials in most instances call for submission of copies to the President, members of Congress, and to Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

Typical of the memorials being adopted is the one passed in Illinois:

WHEREAS, As a result of repeated outbreaks in this country prior to 1927 of the dreaded cattle disease known as "rinderpest" or "foot-and-mouth disease" there was enacted in that year a Congressional embargo upon the importation into this country of dressed meats and meat products from any country where said disease exists; and

WHEREAS, Prior to the imposition of said embargo the spread of that disease in this country demoralized the domestic livestock industry, seriously jeopardized the public health, and resulted in the expenditure of millions of dollars by federal and state governments and by the livestock industry for the eradication of that evil; and

WHEREAS, The wisdom of that Congressional embargo, embodied in the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, has been indubitably justified as attested by the fact that since January 1, 1927, there has been only one minor outbreak of that disease—in the State of California in 1929—which outbreak has since been traced directly to a violation of federal regulations relating to the unloading of certain materials; and

WHEREAS, There is increasing evidence from authoritative sources that a serious attempt is now under way to influence the President of the United States and Congress to circumvent or remove the embargo upon the importation of dressed meats and meat products for the benefit of certain foreign nations in which the said livestock disease is prevalent; and

WHEREAS, Any modification of that embargo would be inimical to the best interests of this nation and would cause a recurrence of the evils existing prior to 1927 as enumerated above; and

WHEREAS, The agricultural and livestock industry of this nation is playing and must continue to play a vital and indispensable part in the program of national defense and nothing would more seriously affect that burden and the program of national defense than a relaxation of the existing barriers to the importation of infected livestock; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, By the Senate of the Sixty-second General Assembly of the State of Illinois, the House of Representatives concurring herein, that we hereby respectfully and earnestly importune the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States for the reasons herein stated to resist any attempts and to refrain from any action designed to repeal, circumvent, or modify the Embargo Act of 1927 relating to the importation of dressed meats and meat products from foreign lands in which there is prevalent the livestock hoof-and-mouth disease; that suitably endorsed copies of this preamble and resolution be forwarded to the President of the United States, the Secretary of State of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives of Congress and the President of the Senate of that body, and to each representative and Senator in said Congress from the State of Illinois.

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During 1940 many additional breeders, rangemen, and feeders "discovered" Baca Grant Herefords. They took occasion to look and were pleased. You will be, too, upon seeing Baca Grant herd bull prospects, range bulls, herd-building females, Hereford feeders.

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## FARMS DECREASE IN NUMBER BUT SIZE AND VALUE UP

**A** REDUCTION OF 3.1 PER CENT IN the number of farms in the decade from 1930 to 1940, an increase in the average size of farms, and an increase in the total dollar value of all farms were indicated in a summary of the 1940 census, issued by Director of the Census William Lane Austin.

The number of farms on April 1, 1940, was 6,096,789, compared with 6,288,648 as of April 1, 1930. However, land acreage in farms was 7.5 per cent greater in 1940 than a decade earlier—1,060,507,355 acres in 1940 and 986,771,016 in 1930.

The 1940 farm census indicates an upward turn in the value of farms—land and buildings—as compared with 1935, but it is still 29.7 per cent under the valuations as shown by the 1930 census.

The 1940 valuation of land and buildings was \$33,644,263,277, compared with \$47,879,838,358 in 1930. In 1935 it was \$32,858,844,012.

The 1940 census records the first upturn in the total value of farm lands and buildings in twenty years. The peak of farm values was reached in 1920 at \$66,316,002,602—an average per acre value at that time of \$69.38. The per acre value fell to \$31.16 in 1935.

In 1850 there were 1,449,073 farms with a farm acreage of 293,560,614 and a total value of \$3,271,575,526. Value per acre at that time was \$11.14, compared with \$69.38 per acre in 1920, \$31.16 in 1935, and \$31.72 in 1940.

The report shows that, although farm acreage increased in the last decade, the proportion of land used for crop production decreased.

AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER



# ROUND THE RANGE

## WESTERN LIVESTOCK AND RANGE CONDITIONS

**WESTERN LIVESTOCK AND** Range feed were reported as in continuing favorable condition in the February 8 release of the Denver regional livestock office of the Agricultural Marketing Service. Ranges were mostly open for grazing and supplemental feeding had not been heavy. Livestock was in good condition. Condition of ranges was 82 per cent, compared with 82 per cent on January 1, 1941, 72 per cent a year ago, and 74 per cent for the 1931-40 average.

A summary of the report by states follows:

**Arizona.**—Range feed good; ample moisture and favorable spring feed prospects in south; good moisture and ample range feed in north; stock wintering well; early lambs good.

**California.**—Pastures and ranges far above normal; almost continuous rain from December 15 to late January; ground wet and feed soft; range stock in good condition; winter losses comparatively light; prospect of considerable volume early grass beef; early lamb prospects favorable.

**Colorado.**—Winter ranges mostly open east of mountains; considerable snow in San Luis Valley and Western Slope; hay and feed generally ample except in San Luis Valley; stock wintering well; stock in feed-lots made good gains.

**Idaho.**—Range and feed good; light supplemental feeding; moisture good; cattle and sheep wintering well; losses light.

**Kansas.**—Above normal precipitation improved pastures; some movement from muddy fields; abundance forage and feed crops; cattle good; moisture best in several years.

**Montana.**—Weather permitted full use of winter range and pasture; stock in good condition; feed plentiful; stock water short in some localities.

**Nebraska (western).**—Ranges partly closed in most of Sand Hills and southwest by snow but thawing general; liberal feeding kept cattle good; weather favorable; soil moisture conditions improved; few cattle being sold.

**Nevada.**—Feed generally very good on winter ranges; ample stock water; moisture conditions good; hay and feed ample; weather favorable; stock wintered very well.

**New Mexico.**—Range feed fair to very good; much of north and higher ranges snow covered; feed fair in southern areas; feeding heavy in snowy sections; moisture conditions good; spring prospects favorable; stock wintered well; losses light.

**North Dakota.**—Cold caused some livestock shrinkage; snow covering widespread, ranging from few inches in southwest to two feet in northeast; considerable feeding necessary; feed ample; stock water low in some areas; stock wintering well.

**Oklahoma.**—Excessive rains caused stock and range decline; too wet to pasture; most cattle fed cake and rough feeds; feeds generally plentiful; stock in good condition; soil moisture and stock water reserves best in years.

**Oregon.**—Ranges and stock above average; weather favorable; snow only on higher elevations; supplemental feeding light; large hay carryover in prospect; death losses light.

**South Dakota (western).**—Pastures and ranges fair but getting short; some snow covering and local stock water shortage; considerable feeding; stock in good condition; losses light.

**Texas.**—Range and pasture feeds well above average; moisture situation generally good; feed plentiful; stock wintered well; losses light; spring feed and stock prospects very favorable unless cold comes; good demand for stock but sales and contracts not heavy.

**Utah.**—Forage growth reduced but

sufficient feed on winter ranges; some concentrate feeding in snowy areas; stock water ample; hay ample for farm stock; stock in good flesh; losses light.

**Washington.**—Lower ranges open with good feed; good snow on high ranges; some feed starting in early areas; big supply hay and grain; stock in very good flesh; lambing started in early areas.

**Wyoming.**—Range feed fair to very good but short forage in areas dry the past year; snow covering light except in southwest and local areas; range forage and feeds ample except in local areas; some concentrates used in central, southwest, and south-central sections; weather favorable; stock wintered well; some wool contracting in central part.

## BULLETINS IN BRIEF

**A FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE** epidemic, reported now under control, caused the loss of approximately 3,000 cattle, sheep, and pigs in northern Ireland. The epidemic spread through

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three counties and caused the closing of schools and the banning of meat shipments to England. The outbreak brought Ireland under the United States ban against shipments from countries where the disease is found, and now virtually all of Europe and the British Isles are quarantined because of the disease. Since the beginning of the war foot-and-mouth disease has spread on the continent of Europe, in most instances along invasion routes, the United States Department of Agriculture reports. Restrictions first were placed on Finland following the war with Russia. Soon after the German invasion, there was an outbreak in Norway and restrictions were extended to that country. There has not been an outbreak of the disease in the United States in twelve years—the longest free period since the turn of the century.

### **LARGE PUREBRED IMPORTATIONS**

During 1940 larger numbers of purebred animals than in any recent year were certified for free entry into this country under the provisions of the Tariff Act of 1930, the Department of Agriculture reports. Last year's importations were nearly 16 per cent greater than in the previous year. This increase is attributed in part to a desire on the part of breeders to prevent the loss of prominent blood-lines in countries engaged in or threatened by war. More purebred cattle were certified for importation than any other kind of domestic animals. Of the total of 13,044 cattle, the breeds leading in numbers were Holstein-Friesian, Ayrshire, Hereford, and Jersey, in the order listed. Sheep totaled 3,417, with Suffolk, Southdown, and Lincoln breeds predominating. Horses numbered 353, with Thoroughbreds, Percherons, Clydesdales, and Belgians in largest numbers in the order listed. Forty-one swine were certified. The list also included 778 dogs and 3 cats of various breeds.

### **MORE CHEESE EATEN**

People are eating more cheese, it is pointed out by E. E. Vail, in the "Agricultural Situation." Total consumption increased 36 per cent during the past decade—from 567,592,000 pounds in 1930 to 770,003,000 pounds in 1939. Most of the increase was in consumption of American or Cheddar cheese—from 67.5 per cent of the total in 1930 to 72.5 per cent of the total in 1939.

### **"X" MARKS THE PROBLEM**

Reviewing the course of agricultural export history for the past forty years, Secretary of Agriculture Wickard says that the "outcome is a picture of our exports and of foreign production that you can make by thinking of the letter X. Start the line of our farm exports at the upper left-hand corner of the X. That's the year 1900. The line goes down

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- .50 American Turkey Journal
- .50 Natl. Spotted Poland Chinas
- .50 Wool Sack (Wool Growers)
- .50 Spotted Poland China Bulletin
- .50 Pacific Poultryman
- .75 American Farm Youth
- 1.00 American Rabbit Journal
- 1.00 Small Stock Magazine (rabbits, cavies, etc.)
- 1.00 The Pacific Fancier
- 1.00 American Bee Journal
- 1.00 Beekeepers Item
- 1.00 Gleanings in Bee Culture
- 1.00 American Hampshire Herdsman
- 1.50 American Pigeon Journal
- 1.00 Belgian (Horse) Journal
- 1.00 Angora (Goat) Journal
- 2.00 Goat World
- 1.00 Hog Breeder
- 1.00 Sheep Breeder
- 1.00 Sheepman
- 1.00 Milking Shorthorn Journal
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LA GRANGE, ILL.

to the lower right-hand corner. That's the year 1940. Forty years of decline. Start the line of amount of farm goods produced in other countries at the lower left-hand corner. That's the year 1900. It ends at the upper right-hand corner of the X. That's 1940. Forty years of increase in foreign production; forty years of decline in American farm exports. That's the X in our equation for the future of American agriculture."

## KEEP CHICKENS AND HOGS APART

The Bureau of Animal Industry warns that it is hazardous to allow chickens to run in the same lot with hogs. It is not only hazardous from the standpoint of the chickens, but is a menace to the hogs if there is any trace of avian tuberculosis in the flock. Hogs are more susceptible to chicken tuberculosis than are chickens themselves. Preventive measures are: Keep all poultry away from swine. Even if there is no evidence of tuberculosis in the poultry flock, there is little to be gained by letting chickens run with the hogs, as there is danger of the chickens being killed and eaten by the hogs.

## CORNED BEEF

Lexicographers at the University of Chicago, according to Armour's magazine, make the following explanation of the origin of the term "corned beef": "The word 'corn' was synonymous back in the sixteenth century and prior thereto with the word 'grain.' What we call corn was not known in those days. About 1550 the manufacturers of gunpowder began using the term 'corned' to indicate that their product had been spread out and allowed to dry in single grains. Shortly thereafter they applied the term 'corned' to the sprinkling of grains of salt on beef and other meats for the purpose of effecting a cure or preservation."

## COUNTRY'S MILK SUPPLY

The annual United States milk supply of almost 51,000,000,000 quarts is utilized as follows: Fluid or fresh milk for cities and villages takes 29.9 per cent of the country's yearly production; creamery butter takes 31.6 per cent; farm butter, 9.2 per cent; 11.7 per cent of the milk is used as fluid milk on the farms where produced; cheese making takes 6.3 per cent of the milk; ice cream, 3.1 per cent; and canned milk, 4.5 per cent.

## FLEECE WEIGHTS GAIN

From 1840 to 1940 the average fleece weights of sheep sheared in the United States increased from 2 pounds to 8 pounds, according to Damon A. Spencer, of the Bureau of Animal Industry. On the average, the increase in fleece weights was six-hundredths of a pound

## Shorthorns Prove Their Worth

At many major shows held throughout the United States this season, Shorthorn steers have been grand champions. Shorthorns are the modern, low-down, thick, early maturing type wanted by enterprising stockmen.

In addition, Shorthorns gain more rapidly than any other cattle. The modern Shorthorn will surprise you. Give him a trial.

### American Shorthorn Breeders' Association

7 Dexter Park Avenue,  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

## What Is Your Livestock Worth?

Nearly any livestock owner could answer that question and be fairly close to the correct price.

On what do you base your idea of value? One cost of production? Prices of steaks in the retail shop? On what you would like to get?

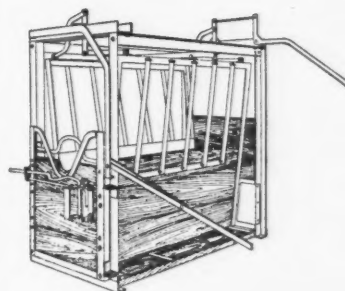
There's only one answer: You and every other livestock producer and feeder must base your idea of values on the quotations established on the Central Livestock Markets. The fact is that ALL livestock values in the western country are determined at the stockyards, where buying and selling is carried on under open, competitive bidding, based upon the law of supply and demand.

You are most likely to receive the FULL MARKET VALUE for your livestock when it is sold on the open market.

For further information and names of Bonded livestock sales agencies at this market you are invited to address the General Manager . . .

## Los Angeles Union Stock Yards "The Great Western Market"

## The Turner Dehorning Chute



A complete, modern chute for branding, vaccinating, dehorning, horn-branding, horn-weighting, blood-testing.

**World's Best Cattle Machine**  
Portable Convenient

With sling and roller attachments. The perfect stocks for foot trimming, veterinary work, etc.

**The Turner Dehorning Chute**  
Eagle Nest, New Mexico

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**HORN 70¢ WEIGHTS**

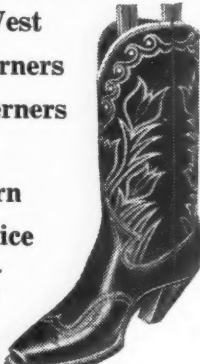
1/2-1-1 1/2 and 2 POUND SIZES

**TATTOO MARKERS**—Complete with figures 1 to 10. Bottle of ink and full instructions, \$4.00 postpaid. Poultry or small animal size \$3.25 post paid. Complete line of Ear Tags, Veterinary Instruments and Supplies. Write for Catalog.

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Full of Western  
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**Western Boot Company**  
Tucson, Arizona

## Cattle and Men; Men and Cattle

Scarcely six years from the May day in 1859 when Gregory discovered gold in Clear Creek, cattle had become such a vital part of western commerce that men talked of "the cattle industry."

This bank should know; for by then we had been in business ourselves about three years.



**COLORADO NATIONAL BANK**  
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a year—six pounds in one hundred years. This upward trend is continuing under the stimulus of the scientific wool-breeding programs now in progress. In 1939 the average fleece weighed 7.96 pounds, according to Spencer, and in 1940 it was 8.03 pounds, an increase of seven-hundredths of a pound.

**MINERS OPPOSE RECIPROCITY**

In its declaration of policy adopted January 29 at a meeting in Washington, D. C., the American Mining Congress on the subject of tariffs said: "We oppose the reciprocal trade agreements policy which has lowered necessary protection to the domestic mining industry without compensating advantage to the U. S."

**KLEBERG HONORED**

Robert J. Kleberg, Jr., manager of the

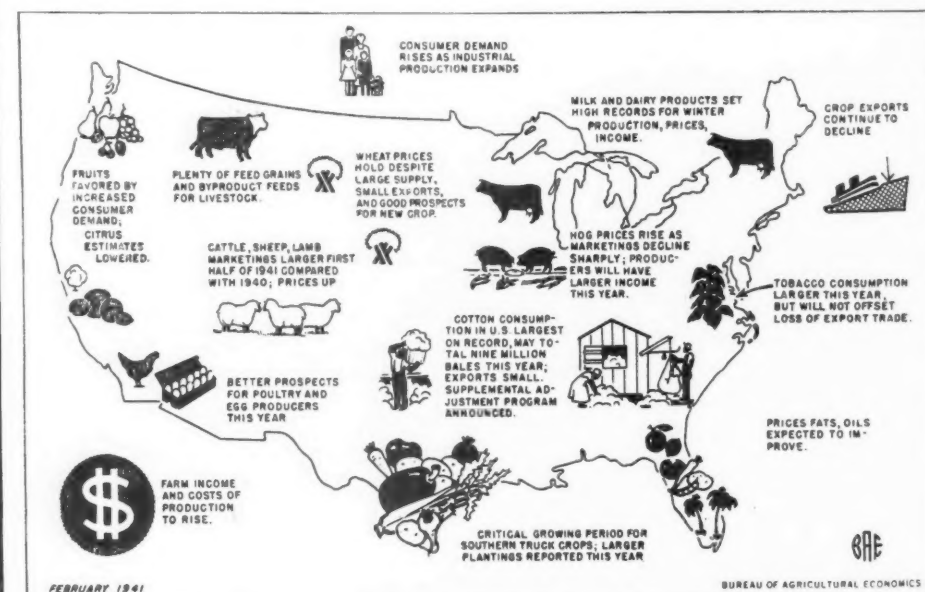
King Ranch, headquarters of which are at Kingsville, Texas, was the recipient of the 1941 merit award for distinguished service of the Texas Agricultural Workers' Association. Presentation was made at a banquet held at San Antonio on January 17. Award was made for Mr. Kleberg's development of the Santa Gertrudis breed of cattle, which is a Brahma-Shorthorn cross, and for his work in establishing Rhodes grass as south Texas pasture. The King Ranch now has 30,000 acres of this pasture.

**FALL RANCH TO BE DUDE PLACE**

The Three Rivers Ranch of Albert B. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, has been sold for conversion into a dude ranch. The buyers, according to the *Associated Press*, were Jess York, of Albuquerque, New Mexico; Dee Brown-

### CATTLE AND WOOL IMPORTS AND MEAT IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

|                                                    | 1940        | 1939        |
|----------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| <b>CATTLE IMPORTS FROM CANADA (HEAD)—</b>          |             |             |
| Over 700 pounds (dairy animals).....               | 9,595       | 8,570       |
| Over 700 pounds (others).....                      | 125,004     | 172,753     |
| 200 to 700 pounds.....                             | 10,076      | 11,229      |
| Under 200 pounds.....                              | 74,681      | 81,832      |
| Breeding animals.....                              | 12,904      | 9,599       |
| Total.....                                         | 232,260     | 283,983     |
| <b>CATTLE IMPORTS FROM MEXICO (HEAD)—</b>          |             |             |
| Over 700 pounds (dairy animals).....               | 44,715      | 55,232      |
| Over 700 pounds (others).....                      | 336,207     | 390,074     |
| 200 to 700 pounds.....                             | 29,921      | 33,259      |
| Under 200 pounds.....                              | 602         | 267         |
| Breeding animals.....                              | 411,445     | 478,832     |
| Total.....                                         | 127         | 838         |
| <b>CATTLE IMPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES (HEAD)—</b> |             |             |
| Total all cattle imports.....                      | 643,832     | 763,653     |
| <b>MEAT IMPORTS (POUNDS)—</b>                      |             |             |
| Beef, canned.....                                  | 61,345,222  | 85,870,472  |
| Total beef and veal.....                           | 75,451,536  | 90,564,517  |
| Total pork.....                                    | 5,696,477   | 40,966,808  |
| <b>MEAT EXPORTS (POUNDS)—</b>                      |             |             |
| Total beef and veal.....                           | 16,653,863  | 15,162,743  |
| Total pork.....                                    | 93,833,812  | 129,542,972 |
| Lard.....                                          | 201,313,796 | 277,271,534 |
| <b>UNMANUFACTURED WOOL IMPORTS (POUNDS)—</b>       |             |             |
| Apparel (formerly combing and clothing).....       | 222,982,838 | 98,193,602  |
| Carpet (including camel hair).....                 | 134,690,723 | 144,875,238 |





field, of Deming; and Ed Harris and Truman Spencer, of Carrizozo. The old Three Rivers Ranch, embracing nearly 1,000,000 acres, was the center of a Senate committee investigation into the Teapot Dome oil scandal. Within the past two years, Fall and his family have been forced to vacate the holdings under foreclosure.

#### GRAZING PERMITS SUSPENDED

The Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act of 1940 amends the federal range code to protect rights of licensees or permittees who enter into military service. Under the amendment the range user may elect to suspend his permit during the period of his service and six months thereafter. No grazing fees will be assessed during the period of suspension. Temporary licenses may be issued to another applicant for the period of the suspension.

#### COUNTING SHEEP

A successful method of counting sheep is to count in groups of three, each group counting as one up to thirty-three, with an odd one coming in to tally 100, according to a letter published in *Pastoral Review*. Another of that journal's correspondents said that "I prefer to count them as they come; that is, in threes, fives, or even tens."

## LETTERS

#### PRICES HIGH

Feed is good. Stock is in good condition. There is not much snow except in spots but a lot of ice-covered feed north and west of Alzada. Plenty of feed is on hand. I bought some 1940 crop clean native bluejoint hay at \$8 a ton. Stock prices are high.—LINN L. GIVLER, Carter County, Mont.

#### PLENTY OF RAIN

We are having plenty of rain, with mild weather. In fact, I think I have never seen a better growing time so early in the season.—J. H. RUSSELL, Ventura, Cal.

#### PROSPEROUS OUTLOOK

This year has a very prosperous outlook for the rangemen so far in our section of the country. We have a deep season in the ground, cattle have wintered fine, the prospects are we will have a big calf crop. I hope the American National will have a successful year.—C. C. MARTIN, Greenlee County, Ariz.

#### IDEAL WINTER

I enjoy reading the *PRODUCER* and find a great deal of material in it that is of

considerable interest. This winter our weather in western South Dakota has been ideal, and with feed and water plentiful and weather good we should come through in good shape. Hope the rest of the country is as well off as we are.—DENNIS LANE, Harding County, South Dakota.

#### CONDITIONS IN NEW MEXICO

Above normal precipitation in December, following an excessive amount in November, has furnished the ranges with an excellent supply of soil moisture. Livestock has wintered so far with few losses. January rains added 2.27 inches to present precipitation. Streams throughout this area have carried large volumes of water, including the Gila, Mimbres, and Frisco rivers and all smaller streams. Henry Woodrow, veteran forest ranger for Gila National Forest, reports twenty-five feet of snow in the Mogollon Mountains. Range grass is reported short in many localities, due to dry weather during late summer and early fall, making it necessary for stockmen to feed more heavily than usual. Prospects for spring range feed are excellent with present amount of moisture. Bloodweed and filaree are already an inch high and with a few warm weeks will develop into plenty of early feed. Condition of ranges is reported 80 per cent normal. Fall shipments of cattle of all classes

## Crawford Hereford Breeders' Association 21st Annual Spring Sale, March 11, 1941

**SALE STARTS AT 1 P. M.**

### 70 Head of Bulls

#### 50 head of serviceable age

These bulls are selected from the outstanding herds in western Nebraska. Well grown and conditioned to suit the most critical producer of feeders. Some bulls of herd bull caliber for the purebred men. These bulls are of the most popular breeding—Spartans, Real Prince Domino, Stanways, Battle Mischiefs, Pioneers, Double Dominos and Beau Mischiefs.

### Consignors:

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|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| P. L. Raben & Sons.....    | Crawford, Nebraska    |
| William Hern.....          | Chadron, Nebraska     |
| W. E. McDonald.....        | Marsland, Nebraska    |
| Oscar Skavdahl & Sons..... | Harrison, Nebraska    |
| Troy Mills.....            | Hay Springs, Nebraska |
| Charles Ferguson.....      | Whitney, Nebraska     |
| John Furman.....           | Marsland, Nebraska    |
| Tom Moody.....             | Crawford, Nebraska    |
| Del Bigelow.....           | Harrison, Nebraska    |
| V. C. Kennedy.....         | Harrison, Nebraska    |
| Levi Richardson.....       | Crawford, Nebraska    |
| Gue and McDowell.....      | Crawford, Nebraska    |
| Jas. Forbes.....           | Crawford, Nebraska    |
| L. F. Bigelow.....         | Harrison, Nebraska    |
| Henry Steffensen.....      | Chadron, Nebraska     |
| D. L. Kay.....             | Crawford, Nebraska    |
| E. J. Serres.....          | Harrison, Nebraska    |

### A. W. THOMPSON, Auctioneer

**Representatives: Jewett Fulkerson, Hereford Journal; Charles Corkle, Omaha Journal Stockman;  
Henry Biedermann, Nebraska Farmer**

**FOR CATALOGS WRITE TO ELMER RABEN, SALES MANAGER, AT CRAWFORD, NEBRASKA**

have been the heaviest in years. The country round about is pretty well cleaned out of feeders. Condition of cattle and calves is reported at 83 per cent normal.—LORENE THREEPERSONS, Grand County, N. M.

#### WONDERFUL WINTER

We have had wonderful winters for three years in a row now; winter range feed has been unusually good. If the weather man just continues in his present mood the cattle should come through the winter in unusually good condition,

and with the abundant moisture supply we have every reason to expect good grass. I find your publication an excellent one to use in my classroom discussions.—H. HACKEDORN, Animal Husbandry Department, State College of Washington.

#### CONDITIONS ABOVE NORMAL

Conditions in the Highland country are above normal this year. We have had an unusual amount of rain all during the winter. Cattle and sheep are in fine con-

dition. Baby calves are beginning to drop. Ranchmen have brought in a number of very select bulls. A number of new herd bulls have been bought to head the small registered herds most of our members have. Demand for Highlands has far exceeded our supply of calves. Most members still have from 5 to 10 per cent of their short age calves which they are holding for the coming season. While most of our ranchmen have plenty of grass, quite a few are feeding a little cottonseed cake to the mother cow. They find this extra feed pays a big dividend. It supports the mother and makes a better calf. Our winter has been very moderate—only one light snow and very little freezing weather. Herds have been culled very severely, as good prices have been paid for any kind of an animal. Therefore the herds remaining are of a better quality and uniformity.—D. A. J. HOFFMAN, secretary Highland Hereford Breeders' Association, Marfa, Tex.

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In Picturesque Platte Canon on  
Two Trout Streams**

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RANCHES, large or small, for sale, exchange, or lease, in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, California, Canada, Central and South America, Africa, and islands of the sea. J. D. FREEMAN, Gunter Building, San Antonio, Texas.

For sale: Grain and stock ranch. 2,200 acres with irrigation. C. W. Rawlings, Owner. Park Hotel, Livingston, Montana.

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Four No. 2½ cans shipped direct from plant to any U. S. address by prepaid express for \$1.00, also 6 10-lb. cans in carton, weight 67 lbs., \$2.50 F. O. B. New Iberia, Louisiana.

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Complete with set of figures 1 to 10, bottle of ink and full instructions, all for \$4.00, postpaid. Ear tags and complete line of supplies. Write for free catalog.

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#### VALUABLE

Enclosed please find \$1 for the annual subscription to the PRODUCER. I find the magazine very valuable in my work. I might inform you also at this time that the Washington Cattlemen's Association has selected Davenport, Washington, as the scene of their 1941 annual meeting, May 23-24—EDWARD HEINEMANN, assistant extension agent, Lincoln County, Wash.

#### RECORD BREAKING RAINS

We have been having almost record breaking rains down here the past two months. Ranges are in fine shape, with running water in about every canyon and draw, and grass—strong and green—high enough for the stock to eat all over the south slope of the hills. Cattle are in better shape and heavier than any year I have seen them to date. We have not done any wholesale feeding at all this year. Calves seem to be earlier than ever this year. We have over a third of our calves on the ground already. By May last year we had only branded a little over a quarter of our calves—I don't believe in our case last year the weather had so very much to do with it, although in general on these southern ranges calves came late—I think in part our trouble was due to a skip year on the part of a lot of cows we brought onto the range in 1938 already bred. We ought to be over the hump now, for we had a skip year the year before.—DAVID C. JEFFCOTT, Santa Cruz County, Ariz.

#### COVER PICTURE

This month's cover picture is by Charles J. Belden, cattleman and expert photographer, of Pitchfork, Wyoming, who supplies most of the fine western pictures that appear on AMERICAN CATTLE PRODUCER covers.



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